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(54) Title: ANALOGS OF GLYCOPROTEIN HORMONES HAVING ALTERED RECEPTOR BINDING SPECIFICITY AND ACTIVITY AND METHODS FOR PREPARING AND USING SAME

(57) Abstract

The present invention pertains to an *alpha*, *beta*-heterodimeric polypeptide having binding affinity to vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH) receptors and vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors comprising a glycoprotein hormone *alpha*-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring *beta*-subunit polypeptide, wherein the *beta*-subunit polypeptide is a chain of amino acids comprising the following four joined subsequences: (a) a first subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 1-93 of the *beta*-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH); (b) a second subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 94-97 of the *beta*-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) and vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH); (c) a third subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 98-100 of the *beta*-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH); and (d) a fourth subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 101-110 of the *beta*-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

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**ANALOGS OF GLYCOPROTEIN HORMONES
HAVING ALTERED RECEPTOR BINDING SPECIFICITY AND ACTIVITY
AND METHODS FOR PREPARING AND USING SAME**

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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to glycoprotein hormone analogs having altered receptor binding specificity and activity. Specifically, the invention pertains to alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides having binding affinity to follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors and luteinizing hormone (LH) receptors. The residues important for receptor binding and specificity are located between Cys93 and Cys100 and Cys100 and Cys110 of hCG. These residues correspond to hFSH residues 87-94 and 94-104. A wide variety of alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides can be made to alter the LH and FSH receptor binding activity and specificity of the polypeptides without disrupting their abilities to form alpha, beta-heterodimers or react with antibodies. This invention also pertains to methods for preparing these alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides and the pharmaceutical compositions in which they may be employed.

**The Reproductive Glycoprotein Hormones
and Their Biological Actions.**

The glycoprotein hormone family consists of
5 three alpha, beta heterodimeric glycoproteins found in
the anterior pituitary gland where they are made and
includes luteinizing hormone (LH), follicle stimulating
hormone (FSH), and thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH). In
some species, a glycoprotein hormone structurally similar
10 to LH is found in the placenta wherein it is synthesized.
In humans, this glycoprotein hormone is called human
chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). In primates, significant
quantities of all the hormones are also found as
excretion products in urine. Urine from pregnant women
15 serves as a convenient source of hCG. After menopause,
when the secretion of LH and FSH from the anterior
pituitary is greatly increased, significant quantities of
LH and FSH are found in the urine and are termed human
menopausal gonadotropins (hMG). Urine from menopausal
20 women serves as an important source of LH and FSH
activities. Both urinary hCG and hMG have important
commercial uses. Unlike hCG, which interacts with LH
receptors and only weakly with FSH receptors, hMG
interacts with both LH and FSH receptors. The activity
25 of hMG is due to the presence of multiple hormone species
in the urinary extract.

Gonadotropins such as CG, LH, and FSH play a
major role in the reproductive process while the
30 structurally related hormone, TSH, is important for
thyroid function. Both LH and FSH are essential for
normal reproductive function and treatments to reduce LH
activity result in infertility, termination of pregnancy,
or both. FSH plays a crucial role in fertility. In the
35 absence of sufficient FSH, women fail to have a normal
menstrual cycle, i.e., a cycle in which a follicle
develops to the point of ovulation. In polycystic
ovarian disease, fertility can be restored by
administration of FSH to women. The hormone hCG is

important for maintenance of pregnancy. In males, the absence of LH and FSH is associated with infertility. The hormone LH is required for puberty and, in its absence, there is a failure to acquire the sexual attributes and fertility of an adult. The clinical activities of these hormones are reviewed extensively in several standard textbooks including that by Yen and Jaffe (1).

Both hCG and LH bind to luteinizing hormone receptors (LHR). In the testis, LHR are found primarily in the Leydig cells. In the ovary, LHR are found primarily in thecal, FSH-stimulated granulosa, and luteal cells. The major role of LH is to stimulate the formation of steroid hormones including the androgens testosterone and androstenedione (Leydig and thecal cells) and progesterone (FSH-stimulated granulosa, thecal, and luteal cells). LH also causes ovulation of mature follicles. While hCG is normally produced only by the placenta during pregnancy, due to its high affinity for LH receptors, the ease which it can be purified from urine, and its long biological half-life, hCG has been widely used as a substitute for LH. Important clinical uses for hCG include stimulation of fertility in males and induction of ovulation in females.

FSH binds to FSH receptors (FSHR) which are located primarily in the Sertoli cells of the testis and the granulosa cells of the ovaries. The primary roles of FSH are to stimulate the conversion of androgens (i.e., the steroids produced in response to LH stimulation of testicular Leydig cells and ovarian thecal cells) to estrogens, to promote the synthesis of inhibin and activin, to promote the development of Sertoli and granulosa cells, and to stimulate gamete maturation. The effect of FSH on granulosa cells leads to follicular maturation, a process during which the oocyte is prepared for ovulation and in which the granulosa cells acquire the ability to respond to LH. Follicle maturation is

essential for the ability of LH to induce ovulation. Initiation of spermatogenesis requires FSH in addition to LH.

5 The differences in the effects of FSH and LH
and the complex endocrine interactions between the two
hormones cause them to have synergistic effects. For
example, normal estrogen production is due to the effect
10 of LH on androgen formation and the influence of FSH on
the conversion of androgens to estradiol. This process
is regulated by negative and positive feedback mechanisms
wherein estradiol can inhibit FSH secretion and increase
LH secretion from the pituitary gland. For this reason,
15 the ratio of LH/FSH activity as well as the absolute
hormone levels in blood are important for reproductive
functions such as sperm production and ovulation of the
proper number of oocytes during the menstrual and estrus
cycles.

20 **Uses of Glycoprotein Hormones
and Desirability of Novel Hormone Analogs.**

Mixtures of FSH and LH activities (hMG) are
routinely used in the treatment of human infertility, a
25 condition affecting approximately 10% of all couples (2,
3). This particular combination therapy is necessary
because gonadal support of gamete maturation is dependent
upon the synergistic actions of both FSH and LH. Current
treatment protocols requiring FSH and LH activity utilize
30 urinary extracts from postmenopausal women. The use of
these extracts is compromised by several factors
including batch (4, 5) and supplier (6) variability,
expense of treatment (7), and the risk of gonadal
hyperstimulation, a potentially fatal side effect (8).
35 These limitations potentially would be overcome through
the use of hormone analogs which combine FSH and LH
activity in the same molecule. Although there is a
naturally occurring hormone, equine lutropin (eLH) which
exhibits both FSH and LH activity in certain nonequine

species (9), its practical application has been limited by side effects (8) and cross-species intolerance (3). Because the structural basis of the LH and FSH activity of eLH has not been understood, it has not been useful as 5 a model for the engineering of mixed functions into hormones from other species. Further, it is not possible to reproducibly prepare eLH with different ratios of LH to FSH activity. In women with some forms of polycystic ovarian disease in which endogenous LH levels are 10 elevated, it would be desirable to devise methods for producing glycoprotein hormone analogs which have a relatively higher ratio of FSH:LH activity. While protein engineering techniques have recently been reported to prepare analogs of hCG which bind with high 15 affinity to FSH receptors (10), there has been no procedure for preparing glycoprotein hormones which bind well to LH and FSH receptors or which bind to LH and FSH receptors with a predictable ratio of FSH:LH activities.

20 Pathological changes in the ratios of FSH:LH are often associated with infertility (e.g., polycystic ovarian disease). Induction of ovulation can be influenced by the ratio of FSH:LH in serum (9) and it would be desirable to prepare analogs of glycoprotein 25 hormones with any given ratio of LH/FSH activity. Presently, the only means of adjusting the ratios of LH to FSH in hormone preparations is to add FSH, LH, or hCG to them or to change the purification scheme. LH, FSH, and hCG have greatly differing half-lives and the ratio 30 of hormone activity following in vivo administration of these preparations changes with time. Thus, mixtures of FSH and LH would gradually assume a higher ratio of FSH:LH activity following administration due to the longer half-life of FSH relative to LH. Since hCG has a 35 much longer half-life than FSH, the ratio of FSH:LH activity of hFSH/hCG mixtures would gradually decrease after administration. It would be desirable to have analogs which contained a predefined ratio of LH to FSH activity in the same molecule. The ratio of FSH:LH

activity in analogs with the capacity to bind to both LH and FSH receptors is expected to remain relatively constant after hormone administration. Analogs containing sequences derived from LH and FSH would have relatively short half-lives. In contrast, since the half-life of hCG is much longer than that of LH or FSH, if one were to use hCG as the primary structural component of these analogs, it should be possible to make analogs with a very long half-life. This would reduce the amounts of the analog needed for a biological effect. Small amounts of these analogs with approximately equal LH and FSH activity would be expected to be useful for inducing ovulation in women with hypothalamic amenorrhea and in males who fail to undergo puberty. Small amounts of analogs with lower ratios of LH/FSH activity would be expected to be useful clinically in cases where some endogenous LH is present such as inducing ovulation in women with polycystic ovarian disease or for increasing spermatogenesis in azospermic males who have some circulating LH. Previously, we have shown that it is possible to produce hCG analogs having very low LH activity and very high FSH activity (10). While these are primarily useful as FSH analogs, their LH activity could be increased only if they were mixed with hCG. Analogs of the human hormones with significant intrinsic LH and FSH activities have not yet been devised. In addition, based on the existing knowledge of the structure and functions of the glycoprotein hormones reviewed below, there is no obvious strategy which can enable these analogs to be devised.

STRUCTURES OF THE GLYCOPROTEIN HORMONES

The structures of the glycoprotein hormones have been studied for many years and considerable information exists as to the relative roles of the hormone subunits (11). These hormones share a common alpha-subunit but differ in their hormone-specific beta-subunits which determine the biological and immunological

properties of each hormone. The sequences of the subunits were determined several years ago and were confirmed from the base sequences of the subunit cDNA which had been cloned from pituitary and placental libraries (12, 13). Substitution of the alpha-subunits of any one hormone for that of another does not change the receptor binding properties of the new hormone. Substitution of the beta-subunit is accompanied by a change in the receptor binding specificity of the resulting hormone. Thus, when FSH beta-subunit is substituted for the LH beta-subunit, the recombined hormone acquires the properties of FSH and loses those characteristics of LH.

Several attempts have been made to identify portions of the alpha- and beta-subunits of the hormones which are responsible for their unique biological properties. Earlier studies were based on chemical modifications of the hormones (11). Modifications were described which reduced the biological activities of the hormones but no analogs were prepared which had switched LH and FSH receptor binding specificities. Due to the complexity of the hormones, this approach was unable to identify amino acid residues which were involved in ligand binding specificity. In an attempt to simplify the problem of identifying residues which are involved in ligand binding specificity, some investigators prepared synthetic peptides corresponding to partial sequences of the alpha- or beta-subunits and monitored their abilities to inhibit binding of ^{125}I -hCG and ^{125}I -hFSH to LH and FSH receptors. Synthetic peptides corresponding to amino acid residues of hCG-beta 38-57 or hFSH-beta 31-52 appear to have higher abilities than most other peptides to bind to these receptors (14, 15, 16). However, they have extremely low affinities for the receptors, an observation which precludes their practical use.

A breakthrough in the ability to make and characterize glycoprotein hormone analogs came in 1985

when genetically engineered mammalian cells were first shown to express biologically active hCG heterodimers (17). Since that time several laboratories have used mammalian cells to express glycoprotein hormone analogs which are capable of binding to receptors and inducing a biological function (10, 18-21). These analogs appear to be glycosylated similar to the naturally occurring hormones. While not important for hormone-receptor interaction, glycosylation of the hormones has been shown to be important for signal transduction in many species (22). In these procedures one introduces a "gene" that encodes the desired amino acid sequences into mammalian cells downstream of a promoter. Construction of these genes is a standard recombinant DNA procedure wherein the codons of the genes encoding the alpha or beta-subunits of the hormones are changed to encode amino acid residues of the desired analogs using the well established genetic code (23, 24). When these gene constructs are transfected into mammalian cells using standard protocols (23, 24), they direct the secretion of glycosylated hormone analogs into the culture media. These media can be assayed for the presence of immunological or biological activity (10, 21).

Using mammalian cell expression systems to make hormone analogs, Campbell et al. (10) engineered an analog which converted hCG from a hormone which bound to LH receptors to an analog which bound to FSH receptors and had only slightly higher affinity for LH receptors than FSH. Campbell et al. (10) were unsuccessful in obtaining analogs which had a high affinity for both LH and FSH receptors. As noted earlier, some naturally occurring analogs (i.e., eLH) can bind to both LH and FSH receptors and this property suggested that it should be possible to engineer human glycoprotein hormone analogs with the abilities to bind to both LH and FSH receptors. None of these analogs have been reported as yet.

One of the most interesting findings made from the studies of Campbell et al. (10) was that the region of hCG and hFSH which appeared to be important for receptor interaction was different from that which had been presumed to interact with the LH and FSH receptors based on the results of studies using synthetic peptides. Indeed, Campbell et al. (10) found that the amino acid residues which had been thought to control receptor binding specificity on the basis of studies using synthetic peptides (i.e., amino acids 38-57 of hCG and 32-51 of hFSH) did not convey receptor binding activity in the intact hormone, the form which had highest affinity for the receptors.

15

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 depicts in graphic format the ability of hCG, hFSH, and the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide analogs of the present invention to inhibit binding of ^{125}I -hCG to rat corpora luteal LH receptors.

Figure 2 depicts in graphic format the ability of hCG, hFSH, and the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide analogs of the present invention to inhibit binding of ^{125}I -hFSH to bovine testes tissue homogenates.

Figure 3 illustrates the effects of hFSH, CF101-109, and CF94-117 on hFSH receptor dependent responses (left panels) and hCG and CF101-109 on hLH receptor dependent responses (right panel). The hFSH, CF101-109, and CF94-117 used in these assays was produced by C127 cell lines that were stably expressing hFSH or the analogs.

Figure 4 illustrates the effects of hFSH, hCG, and CF101-109 on a Y-1 adrenal cell line that was stably expressing the rat FSH receptor. Both hFSH and CF101-109

caused these cells to make progesterone (measured by radioimmunoassay) and round-up (detected by morphological observation). hCG was without effect on these assays. In other studies, hCG and CF101-109 caused rounding of Y-1 cells transfected with rat LH receptors. In the study shown here, Y-1F cells were added to a 24-well culture dish and grown until 60-70% confluent in F-12 medium containing 15% horse serum and 2.5% fetal bovine serum. Hormones were added at the amounts indicated in a total volume of 0.2 ml and incubation was continued for 4.5 hours at 37° C. The plates were examined for rounding at 30 minutes, one hour, and at the end of the study. Cells treated with hFSH and CF101-109 rounded. Cells treated with hCG did not round. At the end of the study, the cells and medium were frozen and saved for progesterone assay. The progesterone was determined by RIA using a commercial kit obtained from Leeco, Southfield Michigan.

Figure 5 (TOP PANEL) illustrates the abilities of hCG and a series of CF101-109 analogs to bind to rat LH receptors expressed in CHO cells. Figure 5 (BOTTOM PANEL) illustrates the abilities of hFSH and the same series of CF101-109 analogs to bind to human FSH receptors expressed in CHO cells. The concentrations of the analogs were determined using A113/B105 sandwich immunoassays. In both panels the solid lines are associated with the top 12 symbols. The dotted lines are associated with the lowest 5 symbols.

Figure 6A illustrates the abilities of CF101-109 analogs to bind to FSH receptors compared with that of hFSH. The values were obtained by comparing the abilities of the analogs and hFSH to inhibit binding of ¹²⁵I-hFSH to CHO cells expressing FSH receptors. Figure 6B illustrates the abilities of CF101-109 analogs to bind to LH receptors compared with that of hCG. The values were obtained by comparing the abilities of the analogs and hCG to inhibit binding of ¹²⁵I-hCG to CHO cells expressing LH receptors. Figure 6C illustrates the

relative LH and FSH potencies of the CF101-109 analogs. The values were obtained by dividing the potencies of the analogs relative to hCG by the potencies of the analogs relative to FSH.

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Figure 7 illustrates the abilities of hCG and a series of CF101-109 analogs to stimulate cyclic AMP formation from CHO cells stably expressing rat LH receptors (TOP PANEL) and the abilities of hFSH and the same series of CF101-109 analogs to stimulate cyclic AMP formation from CHO cells stably expressing human FSH (BOTTOM PANEL). The concentrations of the analogs were determined using A113/B105 sandwich immunoassays. In both panels the solid lines are associated with the top 12 symbols. The dotted lines are associated with the lowest 5 symbols.

20

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention pertains to an alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide having binding affinity to vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH) receptors and vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors comprising a glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring beta-subunit polypeptide, wherein the beta-subunit polypeptide is a chain of amino acids comprising the following four joined subsequences:

(a) a first subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 1-93 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH);

(b) a second subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 94-97 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) and vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH);

(c) a third subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 98-100 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH); and

(d) a fourth subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 101-110 of the beta-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to glycoprotein hormone analogs having altered receptor binding specificity and activity. Applicants have discovered that the residues important for receptor binding and specificity in glycoprotein hormones are located between Cys93 and Cys100 and Cys100 and Cys110 of hCG. These residues correspond to hFSH residues 87-94 and 94-104. A wide variety of alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides can be made to alter the LH and FSH receptor binding activity and specificity of the polypeptides without disrupting their abilities to form alpha, beta-heterodimers or react with antibodies. The finding that interactions between regions of hCG beta-subunit amino acids 94-97 and 101-106 (corresponding to hFSH beta-subunit amino acids 88-91 and 95-100) play a dominant role in determining hormone-receptor binding specificity was unexpected because 1) Keutmann H.T. et al. (14), Santa coloma and Reichert (15), and Schneyer,

5 A.L., et al. (16) had shown that synthetic peptides containing beta-subunit amino acids from portions of the region 38-57 of hCG and 32-51 of hFSH were able to bind to LH and FSH receptors with low affinity and 2)

10 Campbell et al. (10) had shown that residues 94-117 acted to cause an almost total shift in receptor binding specificity. The region containing amino acids 94-97 by itself did not influence receptor binding specificity and it was believed that modification of other residues in the 94-117 region of the molecule would also have an all-or-none effect on receptor binding specificity.

15 The alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides of the present invention are "engineered" to alter the LH and FSH receptor binding activity and specificity of the polypeptides in vertebrates. Applicants have found that

20 1) the region of the hCG beta-subunit between 94-97 (i.e., "D" region) is most important for LH receptor binding activity and specificity, 2) the region of the hFSH beta-subunit between 100-106 (hCG numbering, i.e., "G" region) is most important for FSH binding activity and specificity and, 3) these regions ("D" and "G") of the beta-subunit are somewhat independent in activity. Substitution of a non-LH sequence in the "D" region will decrease binding of the polypeptide to the LH receptor. Substitution of a FSH sequence in the "G" region will increase binding of the polypeptide to the FSH receptor. Thus, it is possible to make modifications and substitutions in these regions to decrease the affinity

25 of hCG for LH receptors and to dramatically increase the affinity of hCG for FSH receptors. The region of the beta-subunit between 1-93 and the choice of alpha-subunit does not appear to be important for LH and FSH binding activity and specificity. Hence analogs having a wide

30 variety of activities can be made by altering the compositions of these two critical regions.

Generally, amino acid sequence variants will be substantially homologous with the relevant portion of the

alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides as set forth in Tables 1 and 2. Substantially homologous means that greater than about 70% of the primary amino acid sequence of the candidate polypeptide corresponds to the sequence of the relevant portion of the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide when aligned in order to maximize the number of amino acids residue matches between the two polypeptides. Alignment to maximize matches of residues includes shifting the amino and/or carboxyl terminus, introducing gaps as required or deleting residues present as inserts in the candidate polypeptide, or both. For example, see Tables 1 and 2 where the glycoprotein hormones and the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides are aligned for maximum homology. Typically, amino acid sequence variants will be greater than about 90% homologous with the corresponding sequences shown for the proteins in Tables 1 and 2.

Variants that are not hormonally-active fall within the scope of this invention, and include polypeptides that may or may not be substantially homologous with a sequence described herein but which are 1) immunologically cross-reactive with antibodies raised against the counterpart polypeptide or 2) capable of competing with such counterpart polypeptides for cell surface receptor binding. Hormonally active variants are produced by the recombinant or organic synthetic preparation of fragments or by introduction of amino acid sequence variations so that the molecule no longer demonstrates hormonal activity as defined herein.

Immunological or receptor cross-reactivity means that the candidate polypeptide is capable of competitively inhibiting the binding of the hormonally-active analogue to polyclonal antisera raised against the hormonally-active analogue. Such antisera are prepared in a conventional manner by injecting goats or rabbits s.c. with the hormonally active analogue or derivative in

complete Freunds adjuvant, followed by booster intraperitoneal or S.C. injections in incomplete Freunds.

Variants that are not hormonally active but
5 which are capable of cross-reacting with antisera to
hormonally active polypeptides are useful a) as reagents
in diagnostic assays for the analogues of their
antibodies, b) when insolubilized in accord with known
methods, as an agent for purifying anti-analogue anti-
10 antibodies from anti-sera, and c) as an immunogen for
raising antibodies to hormonally active analogues.

In accordance with the invention, the
terminology "glycoprotein hormone" refers to human
15 chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing
hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone
(FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH).
The term "chimera" is used to designate a hormone analog
which contains amino acid sequences derived from two or
20 more different glycoprotein hormones.

In accord with the present invention, the
alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides comprise a
glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide and a non-
naturally occurring beta-subunit polypeptide. As set out
25 above, the glycoprotein hormones share a common alpha-
subunit. Substitution of the alpha-subunits of any one
hormone for that of another does not significantly change
the receptor binding properties of the new hormone.
30 Accordingly, the alpha-subunit polypeptide in the present
invention may be any vertebrate glycoprotein hormone
alpha-subunit polypeptide. Nonlimiting examples of
suitable alpha-subunit polypeptides include the alpha-
subunits from human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG),
35 vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle
stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid
stimulating hormone (TSH), and mixtures. In a preferred
embodiment, the glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit
polypeptide may be selected from the group consisting of

human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) and vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH). In a more preferred embodiment, the glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide is human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG).
5 Preferably the glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide is a human polypeptide.

The beta-subunit of the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide is a non-naturally occurring
10 beta-subunit polypeptide which is a chain of amino acids comprising four joined subsequences. The four joined subsequences are as follows:

15 (a) a first subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 1-93 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH);
20

(b) a second subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 94-97 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) and vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH);
25

30 (c) a third subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 98-100 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH);

35 (d) a fourth subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 101-110 of the beta-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

In one embodiment, the invention is directed to an alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide having greater

binding affinity for vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors than for vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH) receptors comprising a glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring 5 beta-subunit polypeptide, wherein the beta-subunit polypeptide is a chain of amino acids comprising the following four joined subsequences:

10 (a) a first subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 1-93 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH);

15 (b) a second subsequence comprising 4 amino acids for residues 94-97;

20 (c) a third subsequence comprising 3 amino acids for residues 98-100; and

(d) a fourth subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 101-110 of the beta-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

25 In another embodiment, the invention is directed to an alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide having binding affinity to follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors and luteinizing hormone (LH) receptors comprising a glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring beta-subunit polypeptide, wherein the beta-subunit polypeptide is a chimera comprised of amino acids 1-100 of any vertebrate glycoprotein hormone homologous to amino acids found in 30 residues 1-100 of human chorionic gonadotropin and any 1-20 amino acids which binds LH receptors better than FSH receptors and has biological activity.

35

In a preferred embodiment, the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of "G", "DG'", "Q", "D", "GT", and "DGT" as set out in Tables 1 and 2. In a more preferred embodiment, the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide is "G".

Table 1 is a representation of the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides of the present invention using the one letter code and aligned in order to maximize the number of amino acids residue matches between the two polypeptides. Table 2 is a representation of the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides of the present invention using the three letter code. Abbreviations: A, Ala; C, Cys; D, Asp; E, Glu; F, Phe, G, Gly; H, His; I, Ile; K, Lys; L, Leu; M, Met; N, Asn; P, Pro; Q, Gln; R, Arg; S, Ser; T, Thr; V, Val; W, Trp; Y, Tyr.

TABLE 1
**AMINO ACID SEQUENCES OF THE beta-SUBUNITS OF hCG, hLH, hFSH,
AND THE alpha, beta-HETERODIMERIC POLYPEPTIDE ANALOGS**

POLYPEPTIDE
ANALOG

AMINO ACID SEQUENCES OF THE beta-SUBUNITS *

SEQ ID NO:	PROTEIN	SEQUENCE	<u>"D"</u>												<u>"G"</u>														
			10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130
SEQ ID NO: 1	hCG	SKEPLRPRCRPINATLAVEKEGCPVCITVNITICAGYCPITMTRVLQGVLPALPAQVCHNTRDVRFESTIRLPGCPRGPNPVSYAVALSCCALCRSTTDCGGPKDHPILTCDDPFRFDSSSSKAPPSSLPSPSSRLPGPSDTPLPQ																											
SEQ ID NO: 2	rhCG	SKEPLRPRCRPINATLAVEKEGCPVCITVNITICAGYCPITMTRVLQGVLPALPAQVCHNTRDVRFESTIRLPGCPRGPNPVSYAVALSCCALCRSTTDCGGPKDHPILTCDDPFRFDSSSSKAPPSSLPSPSSRLPGPSDTPLPQ																											
SEQ ID NO: 3	hFSH	NSCELTNTIAIEKEECRFCISININTICAGCYCITRDLYKDPARKIQTCTFKELVETYRVPGEAHDSLTYTYPVLAQCHGCKDSSTDCTVGLGPSSYCSEGEKE																											
SEQ ID NO: 4	rhFSH	NSCELTNTIAIEKEECRFCISININTICAGCYCITRDLYKDPARKIQTCTFKELVETYRVPGEAHDSLTYTYPVLAQCHGCKDSSTDCTVGLGPSSYCSEGEKE																											
SEQ ID NO: 5	eCG	SRGPLRPLRCRPINATLAAEKAACPICTIFTTSICAGYCPSHNVRMPAALPAIPQPVCTYRELFASTIRLPGCPGVPMVSFPWLSCHGCPQIKTTDCGVFRDPLACAPQASSSSDOPPSQPLTSTTPGASRRSSHPLPIKTS																											
SEQ ID NO: 6	hLH	FCIPTSYMTHIERRECAVCLINTTICAGYCMTRDINGKLFLPKYALSDQDVCTYRDFIYRTVEIPQEPHLVAPYFSPYVALSCKGKDTDSDC1HEA1KTNYCTKPKQSY																											
SEQ ID NO: 7	G	SKEPLRPRCRPINATLAVEKEGCPVCITVNITICAGYCPITMTRVLQGVLPALPAQVCHNTRDVRFESTIRLPGCPRGPNPVSYAVALSCCALCRSTTDC1VGLGPSSYCDDPR																											
SEQ ID NO: 8	DG'	SKEPLRPRCRPINATLAVEKEGCPVCITVNITICAGYCPITMTRVLQGVLPALPAQVCHNTRDVRFESTIRLPGCPRGPNPVSYAVALSCCALCDSDSTDCTVGLGPSSYCSEGE																											
SEQ ID NO: 9	Q	SKEPLRPRCRPINATLAVEKEGCPVCITVNITICAGYCPITMTRVLQGVLPALPAQVCHNTRDVRFESTIRLPGCPRGPNPVSYAVALSCCALCDSDSTDCTVGLGPSSYCSEGE																											
SEQ ID NO: 10	D	SKEPLRPRCRPINATLAVEKEGCPVCITVNITICAGYCPITMTRVLQGVLPALPAQVCHNTRDVRFESTIRLPGCPRGPNPVSYAVALSCCALCDSDSTDCTVGLGPSSYCSEGE																											
SEQ ID NO: 11	GT	SKEPLRPRCRPINATLAVEKEGCPVCITVNITICAGYCPITMTRVLQGVLPALPAQVCHNTRDVRFESTIRLPGCPRGPNPVSYAVALSCCALCRSTTDC1HEA1KTNYCTKPKQSY																											
SEQ ID NO: 12	DGT	SKEPLRPRCRPINATLAVEKEGCPVCITVNITICAGYCPITMTRVLQGVLPALPAQVCHNTRDVRFESTIRLPGCPRGPNPVSYAVALSCCALKGKDTDSDC1HEA1KTNYCTKPKQSY																											

* NON-hCG DERIVED RESIDUES IN THE CHIMERAS ARE UNDERLINED

TABLE 2

AMINO ACID SEQUENCES OF THE beta-SUBUNITS OF hCG, hLH, hFSH,
AND THE alpha, beta-HETEROODIMERIC POLYPEPTIDE ANALOGS

5

hCG

10 SerLysGluProLeuArgProArgCysArgProIleAsnAlaThrLeuAlaValGluLysGluGlyCysProVal
CysIleThrValAsnIleThrIleCysAlaGlyTyrCysProThrMetThrArgValLeuGlnGlyValLeuPro
AlaLeuProGlnValValCysAsnTyrArgAspValArgPheGluSerIleArgLeuProGlyCysProArgGly
ValAsnProValValSerTyrAlaValAlaLeuSerCysGlnCysAlaLeuCysArgArgSerThrThrAspCys
GlyGlyProLysAspHisProLeuThrCysAspAspProArgPheGlnAspSerSerSerLysAlaProPro
ProSerLeuProSerProSerArgLeuProGlyProSerAspThrProIleLeuProGln

15

hFSH

20 AsnSerCysGluLeuThrAsnIleThrIleAlaIleGluLysGluGluCysArgPheCysIleSerIleAsnIle
ThrTrpCysAlaGlyTyrCysTyrThrArgAspLeuValTyrLysAspProAlaArgProLysIleGlnLysThr
CysThrPheLysGluLeuValTyrGluThrValArgVal[ProGlyCysAlaHisHisAlaAspSerLeuTyrThr
TyrProValAlaLeuGlnCysHisCysGlyLysCysAspSerAspSerThrAspCysThrValArgGlyLeuGly
ProSerTyrCysSerPheGlyGluMetLysGlu

eCG

25 SerArgGlyProLeuArgProLeuCysArgProIleAsnAlaThrLeuAlaAlaGluLysGluAlaCysProIle
CysIleThrPheThrThrSerIleCysAlaGlyTyrCysProSerMetValArgValMetProAlaAlaLeuPro
AlaIleProGlnProValCysThrTyrArgGluLeuArgPheAlaSerIleArgLeuProGlyCysProProGly
ValAspProMetValSerPheProValAlaLeuSerCysHisCysGlyProCysGlnIleLysThrThrAspCys
GlyValPheArgAspGlnProLeuAlaCysAlaProGlnAlaSerSerSerLysAspProProSerGlnPro
LeuThrSerThrSerThrProThrProGlyAlaSerArgArgSerSerHisProLeuProIleLysThrSer

hTSH

35 PheCysIleProThrGluTyrMetThrHisIleGluArgArgGluCysAlaTyrCysLeuThrIleAsnThrThr
IleCysAlaGlyTyrCysMetThrArgAspIleAsnGlyLysLeuPheLeuProLysTyrAlaLeuSerGlnAsp
ValCysThrTyrArgAspPheIleTyrArgThrValGluIleProGlnCysProLeuHisValAlaProTyrPhe
SerTyrProValAlaLeuSerCysLysCysGlyLysCysAspThrAspTyrSerAspCysIleHisGluAlaIle
LysThrAsnTyrCysThrLysProGlnLysSerTyr

40

Analog "G"

45 SerLysGluProLeuArgProArgCysArgProIleAsnAlaThrLeuAlaValGluLysGluGlyCysProVal
CysIleThrValAsnIleThrIleCysAlaGlyTyrCysProThrMetThrArgValLeuGlnGlyValLeuPro
AlaLeuProGlnValValCysAsnTyrArgAspValArgPheGluSerIleArgLeuProGlyCysProArgGly
ValAsnProValValSerTyrAlaValAlaLeuSerCysGlnCysAlaLeuCysArgArgSerThrThrAspCys
ThrValArgGlyLeuGlyProSerTyrCysAspAspProArg

Analog "DG"

50 SerLysGluProLeuArgProArgCysArgProIleAsnAlaThrLeuAlaValGluLysGluGlyCysProVal
CysIleThrValAsnIleThrIleCysAlaGlyTyrCysProThrMetThrArgValLeuGlnGlyValLeuPro
AlaLeuProGlnValValCysAsnTyrArgAspValArgPheGluSerIleArgLeuProGlyCysProArgGly
ValAsnProValValSerTyrAlaValAlaLeuSerCysGlnCysAlaLeuCysAspSerAspSerThrAspCys
ThrValArgGlyLeuGlyProSerTyrCysSerPheGlyGlu

TABLE 2 (continued)

Analog "Q"

5 SerLysGluProLeuArgProArgCysArgProIleAsnAlaThrLeuAlaValGluLysGluGlyCysProVal
CysIleThrValAsnIleThrIleCysAlaGlyTyrCysProThrMetThrArgValLeuGlnGlyValLeuPro
AlaLeuProGlnValValCysAsnTyrArgAspValArgPheGluSerIleArgLeuProGlyCysProArgGly
ValAsnProValValSerTyrAlaValAlaLeuSerCysGlnCysAlaLeuCysAspSerAspSerThrAspCys
10 GlyGlyProLysAspHisProSerTyrCysSerPheGlyGlu

Analog "D"

15 SerLysGluProLeuArgProArgCysArgProIleAsnAlaThrLeuAlaValGluLysGluGlyCysProVal
CysIleThrValAsnIleThrIleCysAlaGlyTyrCysProThrMetThrArgValLeuGlnGlyValLeuPro
AlaLeuProGlnValValCysAsnTyrArgAspValArgPheGluSerIleArgLeuProGlyCysProArgGly
ValAsnProValValSerTyrAlaValAlaLeuSerCysGlnCysAlaLeuCysAspSerAspSerThrAspCys
GlyGlyProLysAspHisProLeuThrCysAspAspProArgPheGlnAspSerSerSerLysAlaProPro
ProSerLeuProSerProSerArgLeuProGlyProSerAspThrProIleLeuProGln
20

Analog "GT"

25 SerLysGluProLeuArgProArgCysArgProIleAsnAlaThrLeuAlaValGluLysGluGlyCysProVal
CysIleThrValAsnIleThrIleCysAlaGlyTyrCysProThrMetThrArgValLeuGlnGlyValLeuPro
AlaLeuProGlnValValCysAsnTyrArgAspValArgPheGluSerIleArgLeuProGlyCysProArgGly
ValAsnProValValSerTyrAlaValAlaLeuSerCysGlnCysAlaLeuCysArgArgSerThrThrAspCys
IleHisGluAlaIleLysThrAsnTyrCysThrLysProGlnLysSerTyr

Analog "DGT"

30 SerLysGluProLeuArgProArgCysArgProIleAsnAlaThrLeuAlaValGluLysGluGlyCysProVal
CysIleThrValAsnIleThrIleCysAlaGlyTyrCysProThrMetThrArgValLeuGlnGlyValLeuPro
AlaLeuProGlnValValCysAsnTyrArgAspValArgPheGluSerIleArgLeuProGlyCysProArgGly
ValAsnProValValSerTyrAlaValAlaLeuSerCysLysCysGlyLysCysAspThrAspTyrSerAspCys
35 IleHisGluAlaIleLysThrAsnTyrCysThrLysProGlnLysSerTyr

The activities of alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide analogs "DG'," "Q," "D," "GT," and "DGT" are illustrated in Table 3, Figure 1, and Figure 2 along with hCG, hFSH, and eLH controls. The properties of some of 5 these analogs have been described previously (10).

Table 3

ACTIVITIES OF THE alpha, beta-HETERODIMERIC POLYPEPTIDE ANALOGS RELATIVE TO THAT OF hCG AND hFSH.

10

	ANALOG	LH RECEPTORS	FSH RECEPTORS
	rhCG	1.0	N.D.
	rhFSH	N.D.	1.0
	eCG	0.53	0.18
15	G	0.62	0.29
	DG'	N.D.	0.32
	Q	0.15	N.D.
	D	0.065	N.D.
	GT	0.33	N.D.
20	DGT	N.D.	N.D.

25

30

These values were obtained by dividing the concentration of analog required to inhibit ^{125}I -hCG binding to rat luteal ovarian LH receptors or ^{125}I -hFSH binding to bovine testes FSH receptors by 50% into that required for recombinant hCG and recombinant hFSH, respectively. The concentrations of the analogs were determined by sandwich immunoassay using antibodies B105 and A113. The term "N.D." means not determined because concentrations of analog were not employed high enough to detect 50% inhibition. This was because the amounts of hFSH needed to bind to LH Receptors are several orders of magnitude greater than that of hCG and vice versa the

amounts of hCG needed to bind to FSH receptors are several orders of magnitude greater than that of hFSH.

These results show that it is possible to
5 control the ratio of FSH:LH activity by modulating residues corresponding to hCG amino acids 94-99 and 101-109, hFSH amino acids 88-93 and 95-103, or hTSH amino acids 89-94 and 96-104. These regions are termed "D" and "G", respectively (c.f., Table 1). In general,
10 substitution of a non-LH sequence in the "D" region decreases binding of the polypeptide to the LH receptor while substitution of a FSH sequence in the "G" region increases binding of the polypeptide to the FSH receptor. Analogs containing both "D" and "G" from hCG bind to LH
15 receptors like hCG (10). Analogs containing both "D" and "G" from hFSH bind to FSH receptors like FSH (10). Analogs containing "D" from hCG and "G" from hFSH bind well to both LH and FSH receptors (Table 3, Figure 1, and Figure 2). Analogs containing "D" from hFSH and "G" from
20 hCG bind to LH receptors with considerably lower potency than hCG (10, Table 3, Figure 1, and Figure 2) and do not bind to FSH receptors. Analogs with "D" from hCG and "G" from TSH (i.e., "GT") bind to LH receptors but not to FSH receptors (Table 3, Figure 1, and Figure 2). Analogs with "D" and "G" from hTSH do not bind very well to either LH or FSH receptors (Table 3, Figure 1, and Figure 2).

These results show that it is possible to
30 convert a human hormone into a molecule which binds to both LH and FSH receptors by using the "D" region from hCG and the "G" region from hFSH. Since replacement of the "D" region of hCG by residues from the "D" region of hFSH or hTSH dramatically lowers the ability of the analog to bind to LH receptors (i.e., compare hCG with analog "D," analog "G" with analog "DG'," and analog "GT" with analog "DGT"), it is clear that hFSH or hTSH substitutions in the "D" region which will make the analog less like hCG and will decrease its ability to

bind to LH receptors. If the "G" region in these analogs is derived from hFSH, they will bind well to FSH receptors (i.e., compare analog "G" with analog "DG'"). Thus, as the residues in the "D" region are changed from 5 those of hCG or any other hormone which binds to LH receptors to those of hFSH or hTSH, the ratios of LH:FSH activities will decrease and the analog will appear to behave more like FSH.

10 While the "D" region appears to have the greatest influence on binding of the analogs to LH receptors, the "G" region appears to have the greatest influence on binding of the analogs to FSH receptors. Thus, analog "G" binds FSH receptors better than analog 15 "GT." Similarly, analog "DG'" binds FSH receptors better than analog "D" (Table 3, Figure 1, and Figure 2). Thus, as the residues in the "G" region are changed from hFSH or any other hormone which binds to FSH receptors to those of hCG or hTSH, the molecule will lose its ability 20 to bind to FSH receptors, the ratios of LH:FSH activities will increase, and the analog will appear to behave more like hCG or LH.

25 By systematically varying the composition of residues in the "D" and "G" region between those of hCG, hFSH, and hTSH, it is possible to create a hormone analog which has any desired ratio of LH:FSH activity. Other regions of the hormone do not appear to have significant influence on receptor binding specificity (10).

30 Certain data suggest that the minimum sizes of regions "D" and "G" may be smaller than the sizes indicated. Thus in region "D" there are only 4 amino acids which differ between hCG and hFSH. Of these amino 35 acids, only three are highly non-conserved (i.e., RRS/DSD). In region "G" there are 8 amino acids different between hCG and hFSH, however, it is clear that only 6 of these amino acid residues play an important role in receptor binding specificity. Thus, analog "Q"

retains its ability to bind to LH receptors (Table 3, Figure 1, and Figure 2) even though it has two amino acid residues (i.e., 108 and 109) which are specifically found in the "G" region of hFSH, not hCG. On this basis, only 5 6 residues are believed to be critical in the "G" region.

The compounds of the present invention while effective in the form of the free form may be formulated and administered in the form of the therapeutically or 10 pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts for purposes of stability, convenience of crystallization, increased solubility and the like. These acid addition salts include inorganic acid salts such as hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, nitric, phosphoric, perchloric 15 acid salts and the like; and organic acid salts such as acetic, trifluoroacetic, propionic, oxalic, hydroxyacetic, methoxyacetic, 2-hydroxypropanoic, 2-oxopropanoic, propanedioic, 2-hydroxy-butanedioic, benzoic, 2-hydroxybenzoic, 4-amino-2-hydroxybenzoic, 20 3-phenyl-2-propenoic, alpha-hydroxybenzeneacetic, methanesulfonic, ethanesulfonic, benzenesulfonic, toluenesulfonic, cyclohexanesulfamic, succinic, tartaric, citric, maleic, fumaric acid salts and the like. The preferred acid addition salts are chloride, oxalate and 25 citrate. These acid addition salts can be prepared by conventional methods, such as by treatment of the free base of the inventive compound with the appropriate acid.

The compounds of the present invention, 30 prepared in the free form, can be combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to provide a pharmaceutical composition. Suitable carriers for the free bases include propylene glycol-alcohol-water, isotonic water, sterile water for injection (USP), 35 emulphorTM-alcohol-water, cremophor-ELTM or other suitable carriers known to those skilled in the art.

The compounds of the present invention, prepared in the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition

5 salt form, can also be combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to provide a pharmaceutical composition. Suitable carriers for the acid addition salts include isotonic water, sterile water for injection (USP), alone or in combination with other solubilizing agents such as ethanol, propylene glycol, or other conventional solubilizing agents known to those skilled in the art.

10 Of course, the type of carrier will vary depending upon the mode of administration desired for the pharmaceutical composition as is conventional in the art. A preferred carrier is an isotonic aqueous solution of the inventive compound.

15 20 25 The compounds of the present invention can be administered to mammals, e.g., animals or humans, in amounts effective to provide the desired therapeutic effect. Since the activity of the compounds and the degree of the desired therapeutic effect vary, the dosage level of the compound employed will also vary. The actual dosage administered will also be determined by such generally recognized factors as the body weight of the patient and the individual hypersensitivity of the particular patient. Thus, the unit dosage for a particular patient (man) can be as low as about 0.00005 mg/kg, which the practitioner may titrate to the desired effect.

30 35 The compounds of the present invention can be administered parenterally, in the form of sterile solutions or suspensions, such as intravenously, intramuscularly or subcutaneously in the carriers previously described. The compounds may also be administered orally, in the form of pills, tablets, capsules, troches, and the like, as well as sublingually, rectally, or transcutaneously with a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for that particular mode of administration as is conventional in the art.

For parental therapeutic administration, the compounds of the present invention may be incorporated into a sterile solution or suspension. These 5 preparations should contain at least about 0.1% of the inventive compound, by weight, but this amount may be varied to between about 0.1% and about 50% of the inventive compound, by weight of the parental composition. The exact amount of the inventive compound 10 present in such compositions is such that a suitable dosage level will be obtained. Preferred compositions and preparations according to the present invention are prepared so that a parenteral dosage unit contains from between about 0.5 milligrams to about 100 milligrams of 15 the inventive compound.

The sterile solutions or suspensions may also include the following adjuvants: a sterile diluent, such as water for injection, saline solution, fixed oils, 20 polyethylene glycol, glycerine, propylene glycol, or other synthetic solvent; antibacterial agents, such as benzyl alcohol or methyl paraben; antioxidants, such as ascorbic acid or sodium metabisulfite; chelating agents, such as ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA); buffers, 25 such as acetates, citrates or phosphates; and agents for the adjustment of tonicity, such as sodium chloride or dextrose. The parental preparations may be enclosed in ampules, disposable syringes, or multiple dose vials made of glass or plastic.

30

The compounds of the present invention can also be administered orally. For oral therapeutic administration, the compounds may be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of tablets, capsules, 35 elixirs, suspensions, syrups, wafers, chewing gums and the like. These preparations should contain at least about 4% of the inventive compound, by weight, but this amount may be varied depending upon the particular dosage form from between about 4% to about 70% of the inventive

compound, by weight of the oral composition. The exact amount of the compound present in the composition is such that a suitable dosage will be obtained. Preferred compositions and preparations according to the present invention are prepared so that an oral dosage unit form contains from between about 5 to about 300 milligrams of the inventive compound.

The tablets, pills, capsules, troches and the like may also contain the following adjuvants: a binder, such as microcrystalline cellulose, gum tragacanth or gelatine; an excipient, such as starch or lactose; a disintegrating agent, such as alginic acid, Primogel, corn starch and the like; a lubricating agent, such as magnesium stearate or Sterotex; a gliding agent, such as colloidal silicon dioxide; a sweetening agent, such as sucrose or saccharin; and a flavoring agent, such as peppermint, methyl salicylate or orange flavoring. When the dosage form is a capsule, it may additionally contain a liquid carrier such as a fatty oil. Other dosage unit forms may contain other materials which modify the physical form of the dosage unit, such as enteric coatings. Thus tablets or pills may be coated with sugar, shellac, or other enteric coating agents. A syrup may contain, in addition to the above adjuvants, sucrose as a sweetening agent, preservatives, dyes, coloring agents and flavoring agents.

It is especially advantageous to formulate the pharmaceutical compositions in dosage unit forms for ease of administration and uniformity of dosage. The term dosage unit forms as used herein refers to physically discrete units suitable for use as a unitary dosage, each unit containing a predetermined quantity of active ingredient calculated to produce the desired therapeutic effect in association with the pharmaceutical carrier. Examples of such dosage unit forms are tablets (including scored or coated tablets), capsules, pills, powder packets, wafers, injectable solutions or suspensions,

teaspoonfuls, tablespoonfuls and the like, and segregated multiples thereof.

5 Throughout this application, various publications have been referenced. The disclosures in these publications are incorporated herein by reference in order to more fully describe the state of the art.

10 The present invention is further illustrated by the following examples which are not intended to limit the effective scope of the claims. All parts and percentages in the examples and throughout the specification and claims are by weight of the final composition unless otherwise specified.

15

EXAMPLES

Preparation of "GT"

20 pSVL β' was prepared by subcloning of the XhoI-BamHI fragment of pKBM-hCGB' vector (10) into the XhoI-BamHI sites of pSVL (obtained from Pharmacia Co., Piscataway, NJ). The approximately 3.6-3.7Kbp Pvull-SstI fragment from pSVL-hCGB' was ligated with the synthetic 25 oligonucleotide pair:

C Q C A L C R R S T T D C I H E A I K T N Y C T K P Q K S Y *

5'-

CTGTCAATGTGCACTCTGCCGCAGATCTACCACTGACTGCATACATGAAGCCATCAAGACAAACTACTGCACCAAACCTCAGAAGTCCCTACTGAA

30 GGCAGGTGAGCT-3'

and

3'-

GACAGTTACACGTGAGACGGCGCTAGATGGTACTGACGTATGTACTTCGGTAGTTCTGTTGATGACGTGGTTGGAGCTTCAGGATGACTT
CCGTCCAC-5'.

35

An aliquot of the ligation mixture was taken and used to transform DH5-alpha strain E. coli. (obtained from Bethesda Research Laboratories, Gaithersburg, MD). Plasmid DNAs from ampicillin-resistant DH5-alpha clones

were screened by digestion with BglIII (which is unique to vectors containing the cassette) and EcoRI (which cuts in the vector). Positive clones were identified by the presence of two fragments (approximately 0.8Kbp and 2.9Kbp). The sequence in the coding region of one of these plasmids, which lacked most of the beta-subunit cDNA due to excision of the PvuII fragment, was confirmed by dideoxysequencing as described (10). The remainder of the beta-subunit cDNA (encoding hCG β amino acids 1-87) was restored by ligation of the 2.3Kbp PvuI-PvuII fragment of this vector and the 2.9Kbp PvuI-PvuII fragment from pSVL-hCG-beta'. The ligation mixture was used to transform DH5-alpha strain E. coli. and ampicillin resistant clones were obtained. Miniprep plasmid DNA from these clones were digested with EcoRI and BglIII, and DNA from positive clones exhibited fragments of approximately 2.5Kbp and 2.9Kbp. After the DNA was subjected to a dideoxy sequencing procedure to confirm that it encoded "GT" (Table 1), the plasmid DNA was then cotransfected into COS-7 cells (obtained from the American Type Culture Collection) along with pSVL-hCG-alpha, a pSVL-based plasmid encoding the human glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit (10, 21), using a DEAE-dextran procedure (10). Beginning in 1-2 days and for a few days thereafter, the COS-7 cells produced significant amounts of the free subunits and the heterodimer. These were present in the culture media and heterodimer was detected using sandwich immunoassays employing monoclonal antibodies A113 and B105 (10). The protein was concentrated by ultrafiltration and monitored for its abilities to bind to LH and FSH receptors by radioligand receptor assays using 125 I-hCG and 125 I-hFSH as tracers and rat ovarian corpora lutea and bovine testes as sources of LH and FSH receptors as described (10).

Preparation of "G"

We have found that an alpha, beta-heterodimer composed of the alpha-subunit of hCG and an hCG/hFSH 5 beta-subunit chimera termed "G" having the amino acid sequence illustrated in Table 1 has high affinity for LH and FSH receptors as shown by its ability to compete with radiolabeled hCG and/or hFSH for binding to these receptors (Table 3, Figures 1 and 2). This analog can be 10 prepared in a variety of methods well-known to one versed in the art of molecular biology, one of which is described here. The cDNA for analog "GT" was digested with BglII and SstI and the 5.2-5.3Kbp fragment was ligated with the oligonucleotides:

15

R S T T D C T V R G L G P S Y C D D P R *
5'-GATCTACCACTGACTGCACCGTGAGAGGCCTCGGGCCCTCTTACTGCGATGACCCCCGGTAGAGCT-3'
and

3'-ATGGTGAATGACGTGGCACTCTCCGGAGCCGGAGAATGACGCTACTGGGCGCCATC-5'

20

using standard methods (23, 24). The ligation mixture was used to transform competent DH5-alpha strain E. coli. (23, 24). Transformed cells were selected by their abilities to grow on agar plates containing ampicillin. 25 Ampicillin resistant colonies were chosen and plasmid minipreparations were made by the boiling lysis method (23, 24). The plasmid DNA was then tested for the presence of HindIII-ApaI endonuclease restriction sites. Plasmid DNA having the desired sequences was cleaved into 30 three fragments (approximately 0.8Kbp, 1.1Kbp, and 3.4Kbp). After the DNA was subjected to a dideoxy sequencing procedure to confirm that it encoded "G" (Table 1), the plasmid DNA was then cotransfected into COS-7 cells (obtained from the American Type Culture 35 Collection) along with pSVL-hCG-alpha, a pSVL-based plasmid encoding the alpha-subunit (10, 21), using a DEAE-dextran procedure (10, 21, 23, 24). Beginning in 1-2 days and for a few days thereafter, the COS-7 cells produced significant amounts of the free subunits and the

heterodimer. These were present in the culture media and heterodimer was detected using sandwich immunoassays employing monoclonal antibodies A113 and B105 (10). The protein was concentrated by ultrafiltration and monitored 5 for its abilities to bind to LH and FSH receptors by radioligand receptor assays using ^{125}I -hCG and ^{125}I -hFSH as tracers and rat ovarian corpora lutea and bovine testes as sources of LH and FSH receptors as described (10).

10

Preparation of "D" and "DG'" and "Q"

Preparations of analogs "D" and "DG'" have been described previously (10) and are the same as those of 15 analogs CF94-97 and CF94-114 in that report, respectively. Analog "Q" was prepared from the expression vector encoding analogs "D" and CF108-114 (10) by digesting them with PpuMI, separating the fragments on agarose gels, and ligating the large fragment obtained 20 from CF108-114 with the small fragment obtained from "D." The resulting plasmid was then cotransfected into COS-7 cells along with pSVL-hCG-alpha and the media assayed for the presence of the analogs using an A113-B105 sandwich immunoassay as described (10).

25

Preparation of "DGT"

Plasmid pSVL-hCGB' was sequentially digested with SstI and PvuII and the 3.6Kbp fragment was ligated 30 with the synthetic DNA cassette formed by annealing the following oligonucleotides:

C K C G K C N T D Y S D C I H E A I K T N T C T K P Q K S Y *

5'-

CTGTAAGTGTGGCAAGTGCAATACTGACTACAGTGACTGTATACATGAAGCCATCAAGACAAACTACTGCACCAAACCTCAGAAGTCCACTGAA

5 GGCAGGTGAGCT-3'

and

3'-

GACATTACACCGTTACGTTATGACTGATGTCAGCATATGACTTCGGTAGTTCTGTTGATGACGTGGTTGGAGTCAGGATGACTT
CCGTCCAC-5'.

10

The ligation mixture was used to transform DH5-*alpha* *E. coli*. and miniprep plasmid DNA obtained from ampicillin resistant colonies was screened for the presence of an approximately 0.6Kbp fragment released by digestion with AccI. After DNA sequencing was performed to confirm that the construct encoded the desired sequence, it was cut with PvuII and ligated with the 1.6Kbp fragment of pSVL-hCG*B'*. The ligation product was transformed into DH5-*alpha* strain *E. coli*. and positive clones were selected. Plasmid DNA was prepared by boiling lysis and digested with EcoNI and XhoI. DNA which had the insert in the correct orientation produced fragments approximately 2.6Kbp, 1.7Kbp, 0.5Kbp, 0.25Kbp, and 0.15Kbp. The plasmid DNA was then cotransfected into COS-7 cells (obtained from the American Type Culture Collection) along with pSVL-hCG-*alpha*, a pSVL-based plasmid encoding the *alpha*-subunit (10, 21), using a DEAE-dextran procedure (10, 21, 23, 24). Beginning in 1-2 days and for a few days thereafter, the COS-7 cells produced significant amounts of the free subunits and the heterodimer. These were present in the culture media and heterodimer was detected using sandwich immunoassays employing monoclonal antibodies A113 and B105 (10). The concentration of the protein was concentrated by ultrafiltration and monitored for its abilities to bind to LH and FSH receptors by radioligand receptor assays using ¹²⁵I-hCG and ¹²⁵I-hFSH as tracers and rat ovarian corpora lutea and bovine testes as sources of LH and FSH receptors as described (10).

The procedures set out below produce the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptides in a transient fashion. As is well known in the art, vectors other than pSVL can be chosen which will enable the protein to be expressed in a stable fashion in larger quantities. The DNA sequences described above can be excised from pSVL and then subcloned into any other expression vector. Cell types other than COS-7 cells can be used to express the analogs. These include virtually any eucaryotic cell for which an expression vector is known or can be devised and include mammalian cells, insect cells, yeast cells, fungal cells, and plant cells.

The abilities of the analogs to inhibit binding of ^{125}I -hCG to rat corpora luteal LH receptors was performed by procedures similar to those described previously. Immature rats were given injections of pregnant mares serum gonadotropin and hCG to induce the formation of corpora lutea. The ovaries were removed from the animals, homogenized, and stored at a concentration of approximately 5mg homogenate tissue in 100 ul buffer (25).

The abilities of the analogs to inhibit binding of ^{125}I -hFSH to bovine testes tissue homogenates was performed by procedures similar to those described previously (10).

Figures 1 and 2 depict in graphic format the ability of hCG, hFSH, and the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide analogs of the present invention to inhibit binding of ^{125}I -hCG to rat corpora luteal LH receptors and binding of ^{125}I -hFSH to bovine testes tissue homogenates, respectively.

To obtain additional evidence for our observation that the determinants of LH and FSH receptor binding specificity are independent, we prepared a series of

analogs of hCG which had a wide range of LH/FSH activities. We started with the analog that had approximately equal LH and FSH binding activities (this analog has been called a variety of names including "G" and "CF101-109"). This analog contains hFSH beta-subunit residues 95-103 for hCG beta-subunit residues 101-109 in an hCG beta-subunit analog which is truncated after residue 114. The sequence of this analog is set out below. The residues derived from the hFSH beta-subunit are underlined. The leader sequence is omitted.

9	23 26	34 38	57	72
SKEPLRPRCRPINATLAVEKEGCPVCITVNNTICAGYCPTMTRVLQGVLPALPQVVCNYRDVRFESIRLPGC				
88	93	100	110	
15	PRGVNPVVSYAVALSC <u>QCALCRRSTTDCTVRGLGPSY</u> CDDPR			

To facilitate making analogs in the 94-97 region, we made intermediate analogs MB135 and MB140. These were modified to give the desired analogs using cassette mutagenesis with short synthetic DNA oligos (i.e., 18-mers).

ANALOG MB135: (Converts G¹⁰²/V in hCG beta-subunit residues 1-114.) This analog was made after considering the sequences of all mammalian glycoprotein hormones with LH and FSH activities. One of these, equine LH, has the ability to bind to rat LH and FSH receptors. Equine LH is very similar to hCG except in the region between 101-109 (26). One residue which might be critical in this region is the valine at 102. Therefore, we changed the glycine found in hCG at position 102 to valine.

We synthesized oligos 435 and 436 having the following sequences:

435: 5'-GTGGCTCTCAGCTGTCAATGCCGCTCTGCCGAGATCTACCACTGACTGCGGGTCCCTAAGGACCAC-3', and
436: 3'-TGACTGACCCCCAGGGATTCTGGTGGGAACTGGACACTACTGGGGGCATTCTCGAGCCTAGGCACACC-5'.

These were annealed and filled-in using Taq polymerase to give a product which encodes amino acids homologous to those of hCG beta-subunit between 84-114 except at residue 102 and introduces the BssHII restriction site in the DNA as shown:

	88	93	100	110
	V A L S C Q C A L C R R S T T D C G V P K D H P L T C D D P R *			
	GTGGCTCTCAG <u>CTGTCAATGCGCGCTGCCGCAGATCTACCACTGACTGCGGGGTCCCTAAGGACCACCCCTTGACCTGT</u> CATGACCCCCGCTA			
10	AGAGCTCGGATCCGTGAGG			
	CACCGAGAGTCGACAGTTACCGCGGAGACGGCGTCTAGATGCT <u>GACTGACGCCCCAGGGATTCTGGTGGGA</u> ACTGGACACT <u>ACTGGGGCGAT</u>			
	<u>TCTCGAGCCTAGGCACACC</u>			
	CAG^CTG	G^CGCGC	A^GATCT	GACNNNN^NNNTG(DrdI)
	GAGCT^CGG^ATCC			
15	PvuII	BssHII	BglII	PG^GWCCY(PpuMI)
	(SacI-BamHI)			
	CCTNAGG(MstII)			

(In this diagram, the sequences derived from the original oligos are underlined. The locations of restriction sites that were created are also noted.) The reaction product was subjected to endonuclease digestion with PvuII and SacI, purified on an agarose gel, and cloned into the PvuII-SacI sites of pSVL-hCG-beta' to give pSVL-MB135. [pSVL-hCG-beta'] was made by ligating the small XhoI-BamHI fragment from pKBM-hCG-beta' into the XhoI-BamHI sites of pSVL (27). The construct was sequenced using standard dideoxy double strand sequencing methods. pSVL-MB135 was then co-transfected with pSVL-hCG-alpha (27) into COS-7 cells. We concentrated the media by placing them in a dialysis bag and then surrounding the dialysis bag with Aquacide II (Calbiochem) overnight at 4° C. The concentrated media were dialyzed against phosphate buffered isotonic saline (PBS). The amount of dimer was measured using a sandwich immunoassay procedure as described (28) except that antibody A113 (alpha-subunit specific) and radioiodinated antibody B105 (beta-subunit specific) were used as the capture and detection reagents, respectively. This

analog formed dimer and bound to LH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP formation. It had low ability to bind to FSH receptors.

5 ANALOG MB140: This analog was made from pSVL-MB135 and was engineered to have hFSH beta-subunit residues between 101-109. In addition, coding sequences for Aspartic acid and Leucine were added and that for Arginine 94 was eliminated. The latter change added a
10 BspMI site. The large fragment of BssHII/BspMI digestion will be referred to as pSVL-MB140*. This fragment lacked coding sequences corresponding to residues 92, 93, 94, 95, and 96 of the hCG beta-subunit. Thus, we could add any coding sequence to this region by ligating pSVL-MB140* with any synthetic DNA cassette. The residues
15 which were most studied corresponded to those for residues 94, 95, and 96 of hCG beta-subunit.

Oligos 438 and 439 used to make analog MB140
20 were made and had the sequences:

439: 5'-CTGTCAATGCCGCTCTGCACCTGCGAAGTACTACCGACTGCACTGTCCGGTCTTGGCC-3' and
438: 3'-CGTGACAGGCCAGAACCCGGAGATAACACTACTAGGGCGATTCTCGAGCCTAGGCACACC-5'.

25 These were annealed, extended with Taq polymerase, digested with BssHII and SacI, and then cloned into the BssHII and SacI sites of pSVL-MB135 by standard methods to give pSVL-MB140. The resulting vector had the following coding sequence for amino acids
30 84-114:

	88	93	101	111
	V A L S C Q C A L C D L R S T T D C T V R G L G P S Y C D D P R			
*				
5	<u>GTGGCTCTCAGCTGTCATGCGCTCTGCACCTGCGAAGTACTACCGACTGCACTGTCGCGGTCTGGCCCTCTTATTGTGATGATCCTAG</u>			
	ATAAGAGCTCGGATCCGTGAGG			
	<u>CACCGAGAGTCGACAGTTACCGCGAGACGCTGGACCGCTTATGATGGCTGACGTGACAGGCCAGAACCCGGGAGAATAACACTACTAGGGC</u>			
	<u>GATTCTCGAGCCTAGGCACACC</u>			
	CAG^CTG	G^CGCGC	ACCTGC(BspMI)	GACNNNN^NNNGTC(DrdI) GGGCCC(ApaI)
10	<u>GAGCT^CGG^ATCC</u>			
	PvuII	BssHII	AGTACT(Scal)	CCGC^GG(SstII)
	(SacI-BamHI)			

Note, as before, the sequence derived from the primers is underlined and several restriction sites are identified. pSVL-MB140 was expressed in COS-7 cells along with pSVL-hCG-alpha. This analog had limited ability to form dimer with the alpha-subunit and was nearly inactive in most biological assays. The analog was readily detected in a beta-subunit specific sandwich assay employing antibodies B201 and radiolabeled B105 as capture and detection antibodies, respectively (Table 5). This indicated that it probably folded similarly to the beta-subunit.

25 ANALOG MB144: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to DRST).

30 Synthetic oligos 440 and 441 having the sequences:

440 5'-CGCGTTGTGTGACAGATC-3' and
441 3'-AACACACTGTCTAGATGA-5'

35 were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB144:

88 93 100
C A L C D R S T T D C
TGC CG GTT GTG ACAG ATCT ACT ACC GACT GC
5 ACG CG CAAC AC ACT GT CT AGAT GAT GG CT GAC G
 AGAT CT
 Bgl III

10 A Bgl III site was created and the ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed. The change in sites was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB144 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain 15 alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

20 ANALOG MB145: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to NRST).

Synthetic oligos 442 and 443 having the sequences:

25 442 5' -CG CG TT GT GT AAC AGA TC-3' and
 443 3' -AAC AC ATT GT CT AG AT GA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* to give pSVL-MB145:
30

93 100
C A L C N R S T T D C
TGC CG GTT GTG TAAC AG ATCT ACT ACC GACT GC
ACG CG CAAC AC ACT GT CT AG AT GAT GG CT GAC G
35 AGAT CT
 Bgl III

A Bgl III site was created and the ScaI and BssHII sites of pSVL-MB140* were destroyed. The change

in sites was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB145 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The LH:FSH activity ratio is described in Figure 4c.

10

ANALOG MB146: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to RSST).

15

Synthetic oligos 444 and 445 having the sequences:

444

5'-CGCGTTGTGTAGATCTTC-3' and

445

3'-AACACATCTAGAAGATGA-5'

20

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB146:

25

88	93	100								
C	A	L	C	R	S	S	T	T	D	C
TGCGCGTTGTGTAGATCTTCTACTACCGACTGC										
ACGCGCAACACATCTAGAAGATGATGGCTGACG										
AGATCT										
BglII										

30

A BglII site was created and the ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed. The change in sites was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB146 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB147: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to RSDT).

5 Synthetic oligos 447 and 448 having the
sequences:

447 5'-CGCGTTGTGTAGATCTGA-3' and
448 3'-AACACATCTAGACTATGA-5'

10 were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give
pSVL-MB147:

20 A BglII site was created and the ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed. The change in sites was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning.

25 After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB147 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of

30 LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB148: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to RSNT).

35 Synthetic oligos 449 and 450 having the
sequences:

449 5'-CGCGTTGTGTAGATCTAA-3' and
450 3'-AACACATCTAGATTATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB148:

5 93 100
C A L C R S N T T D C
TGC CGCTTGTGTAGATCTAATACTACCGACTGC
ACGCGCAACACATCTAGATTATGATGGCTGACG
AGATCT
BglIII
10

A BglII site was created and the ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed. The change in sites was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB148 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB149: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to QRST).

25 Synthetic oligos 451 and 452 having the
sequences:

451 5'-CGCGTTGTGTCAGAGATC-3' and
 30 452 3'-AACACAGTCTCTAGATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB149:

	93	100
5	C A L C Q R S T T D C	
	TGC CGCT GTGTCAGAGATCTACTACCGACTGC	
	ACGCGAACACAGTCTAGATGGCTGACG	
	AGATCT	
	BglII	

A BglII site was created and the ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed. The change in sites was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB149 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

20 ANALOG MB150: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to RQST).

Synthetic oligos 514 and 515 having the sequences:

25 514 5'-CGCGCTGTGTCGACAGAG-3' and
 515 3'-GACACAGCTGTCTCATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give 30 pSVL-MB150:

	93	100
35	C A L C R Q S T T D C	
	TGC CGCT GTGTCGACAGAGTACTACCGACTGC	
	ACGCGCACACAGCTGTCTCATGGCTGACG	
	G [^] CGCGC G [^] TCGAC A [^] GTACT	
	BssHIII SalI ScaI	

Note, the ScaI and BssHII sites were not destroyed and a SalI site was added for screening. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB150 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The LH:FSH activity ratio is described in Figure 4c.

10

ANALOG MB151: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to DSRT).

15

Synthetic oligos 455 and 456 having the sequences:

455

5'-CGCGTTGTGTGATTCTCG-3' and

456

3'-AACACACTAAGAGCATGA-5'

20

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB151:

25

93	100
C A L C D S R T T D C	.
TGCGCGTTGTGTGATTCTCGTACTACCGACTGC	
ACGCGCAACACACTAAGAGCATGATGGCTGACG	

30

35

The ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed and this information was used for screening. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB151 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB152: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to DSAT).

Synthetic oligos 457 and 458 having the sequences:

5 457 5'-CGCGTTGTGTGATTCTGC-3' and
458 3'-AACACACTAAGACGGATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB152:

10

93 100

C A L C D S A T T D C
TGC CGC GTT GTG ATT CTG C T A C T A C C G A C T G C
A C G C G C A A C A C A C T A A G A C G A T G A T G G C T G A C G

15

The ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed and this information was used for screening. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB152 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

25

ANALOG MB153: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to DRDT).

Synthetic oligos 459 and 460 having the
30 sequences:

459 5'-CGCGTTGTGTGATAGAGA-3' and
460 3'-AACACACTATCTCTATGA-5'

35 were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give
pSVL-MB153:

93 100
C A L C D R D T T D C
TGCGCGTTGTGTGATAGAGATACTACCGACTGC
ACGCGAACACACTATCTCTATGATGGCTGACG
5

The ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed and this information was used for screening. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB153 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB154: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to ASDT).

Synthetic oligos 461 and 462 having the sequences:

461 5'-CGCGTTGTGTGCTAGCGA-3' and
462 3'-AACACACGATCGCTATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB154:

93 100
C A L C A S D T T D C
TGCGCGTTGTGTGCTAGCGATACTACCGACTGC
ACGCGAACACACGATCGCTATGATGGCTGACG
G^CTAGC
NheI
30

The ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed and a NheI site was created. This information was used for screening. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB154 was co-transfected into COS-7

cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation 5 (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB155: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to QIST).

10

Synthetic oligos 463 and 464 having the sequences:

463 5'-CGCGTTGTGTCAGATCTC-3' and
15 464 3'-AACACAGTCTAGAGATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB155:

20

93

100

C A L C Q I S T T D C
TGCGCGTTGTGTCAGATCTCTACTACCGACTGC
ACGCGAACACAGTCTAGAGATGATGGCTGACG

A^GATCT

25

BglII

A BglII site was created and the ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed. The change in sites was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. 30 After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB155 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB192: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to RDST).

Synthetic oligos 516 and 517 having the sequences:

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB192:

An NruI site was created and used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB192 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB201: (This changes the sequence DLRST
of ANALOG MB140 to RNST).

30 Synthetic oligos 518 and 519 having the
sequences:

518 35 519 5'-CGCGCTGTGTCGGAATTC-3' and
3'-GACACAGCCTTAAGATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB201:

93 100
C A L C R N S T T D C
TGC CGC GCT GTG TCG GAA TTCT ACT ACC GACT GC
ACG CGC GAC ACAG C CTTA AGAT GAT GG CTG AC G
5 G^CGCGC G^AATTC
BssHIII EcoRI

An EcoRI site was created and used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its 10 structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB201 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated 15 cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB194: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to RSRT).

20 Synthetic oligos 520 and 521 having the sequences:

520 5'-CGCGCTGTGTAGATCTCG-3' and
25 5'-GACACATCTAGAGCATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB194:

30 93 100
C A L C R S R T T D C
TGC CGC GCT GTG TAG ATCT CGT ACT ACC GACT GC
ACG CGC GAC ACAT CTAG AGC ATG AT GG CTG AC G
G^CGCGC A^GATCT
35 BssHIII BglII

A BglII site was created and used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB194 was co-

transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB202: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to DSDT).

10

Synthetic oligos 522 and 523 having the sequences:

15

522 5'-CGCGCTGTGTGATTCTGA-3' and
523 3'-GACACACTAAGACTATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB202:

20

	93	100
C A L C D S D T T D C		
TGCGCGCTGTGTGATTCTGATACTACCGACTGC		
ACGCGCGACACACTAAGACTATGATGGCTGACG		
G^CGCGC G^ANTC		
BssHIII HinFI		

25

A HinFI site was created and used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB202 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors and stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation (Figures 5 and 7). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG MB278: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to RRRT).

Synthetic oligos 628 and 629 having the sequences:

5' -CGCGCTCTGTCGACGGCG-3' and
5 629 3' -GAGACAGCTGCCGCATGA-5'

were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give pSVL-MB278:

10	93	100
	C A L C R R R T T D C	
	TGCGCGCTCTGTCGACGGCGTACTACCGACTGC	
	ACGCGCGAGACAGCTGCCGATGATGGCTGACG	
	G^CGCGC G^TCGAC	
15	BssHII	Sall

A SalI site was created and used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB278 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to LH and FSH receptors (Figures 4a and 4b). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

25 ANALOG MB279: (This changes the sequence DLRST of ANALOG MB140 to DDDT).

Synthetic oligos 630 and 631 having the
30 sequences:

630 5'-CGCGTTATGCGATGACGA-3' and
631 3'-AATACGCTACTGCTATGA-5'

35 were ligated into pSVL-MB140* by standard methods to give
pSVL-MB279:

93 100
C A L C D D D T T D C
TGCGCGTTATGCGATGACGATACTACCGACTGC
5 ACGCGCAATACGCTACTGCTATGATGGCTGACG

The BssHII site was destroyed and this observation was used for screening the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB279 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the sandwich assay. This analog bound to FSH receptors but had low affinity for LH receptors (Figures 4a and 4b). The ratio of LH to FSH activity is described in Figure 4c.

ANALOG PRM3: (This is a full-length hCG beta-subunit with hFSH beta-subunit residues 88-100 substituted for hCG beta-subunit residues 94-106.) This analog was made using oligonucleotides 363, 364, 365, 368, 508, and 510. The sequences of these oligonucleotides are illustrated below:

25 363: 5'-AGCTGTCCTGGAGCTAGGAATCT-3'
 364: 5'-CTAGCCTAGAACGCTCTGACTGTC-3'
 365: 5'-AGCTGTCCTGGAGCTAGGAATCTCTGTACGGAAGTGTACTTCTGCTCT-
 3'
 368: 5'-CTAGCCTAGAACGCTCTGACTGTCCTAGTTGTGGTTGTCCAAACTCATC-
30 3'
 508: 5'-ACTGTCCCGCGGCTTGGGTCCCTTGACCTGTGATGACCCCCGCTTC-3'
 510: 5'-GGGACCCAAGCCGCGGACAGTACAGTCACTGTCGCTGTCGAGAG-
 3'

35 Oligos 365 and 510 were used in a PCR reaction using conditions similar to those described (29) with CF94-117 (27) as a primer. Oligos 508 and 368 were used in a second PCR reaction using pSVL-hCG-beta' as a primer. The products of the first and second reactions

were mixed and a third PCR reaction performed using oligos 363 and 364. The resulting DNA was then digested with XbaI and BamHI endonucleases, purified on agarose, and ligated into the XbaI/BamHI sites of pSVL. The 5 sequence of the DNA between the XbaI and BamHI sites was confirmed by double stranded dideoxy sequencing. Note also that this introduced an SstII site which was used in further cloning.

10	93	100	110
L C D S D S T D C T V R G L G P L T C D D P R F			
CTCTGGACAGCGACAGTACTGACTGTACTGTCCGGCTTGGTCCCTTGACCTGTGATGACCCCCGGTC			
GAGACGCTGTCGCTGTCATGACTGACATGACAGGGCGCCGAACCCAGGGA			ACTGGACACTACTGGGGCGAAG
AGT [^] ACT	CCGC [^] GG		
15	SceI	SstII	

The portions of the molecule between residues 1-93 and 107-145 were identical in sequence to those of the hCG beta-subunit. This analog was co-transfected 20 into COS-7 cells along with pSVL-hCG-alpha and the media were collected on the third day after transfection (27). The media were concentrated and analyzed by a sandwich immunoassay using antibodies A113 and radiolabeled B105. This analog combined with the alpha-subunit. It had 25 relatively low ability to bind to either LH or FSH receptors (Table 6).

ANALOG PRM8: This is an analog identical to MB202 except that Thr97 of MB202 was replaced by Ser. PRM8 was made by replacing the XhoI/SstII fragment of 30 MB202 with that of PRM3. It was made to learn if the higher than expected amount of LH activity found in MB202 relative to CF94-117 (Table 6) was due to the Thr at residue 97. This residue is Ser in hFSH beta-subunit. This analog was co-transfected into COS-7 cells along 35 with pSVL-hCG-alpha and the media were collected for assay on the third day after transfection (27). The media were concentrated and analyzed by a sandwich immunoassay using antibodies A113 and radiolabeled B105.

This analog combined with the alpha-subunit. It had good ability to bind to FSH receptors. It bound to LH receptors better than CF94-117 indicating that Thr97 was not responsible for discriminating LH and FSH receptors.

5

ANALOGS PRM1 and PRM2: (These are full-length hCG beta-subunits. PRM1 contains hFSH beta-subunit residues 88-108 substituted for hCG beta-subunit residues 94-114. PRM2 is identical to PRM1 except that Tyr109 is replaced with a Phe. PRM2 was made to test the role of the tyrosine at residue 109.) These analogs were prepared using oligonucleotides 596 and 368. The sequence of 368 is listed above and that for 596 is shown below:

15

596: 5'-TGCACGTCCGGGTCTGGCCAAGCT(A/T)TTGCAGCTTCGGCGAATTCCAGGACTCCTCTTCAAAGGCC-3'

The products of the PCR reaction were digested with SstII and BamHI and used to replace the small SstII/BamHI fragment of pSVL-PRM3. Due to the use of two bases (i.e., A or T) at one position in this oligonucleotide, we anticipated that there would be two analogs which could be formed. These two analogs differed by the presence of a HindIII restriction endonuclease digestion site (c.f., diagram below) and this difference enabled us to distinguish the analogs during cloning. Both analogs contained an EcoRI site. The sequences of both analogs were confirmed by double stranded dideoxy methods.

30

ANALOG PRM1:

100	110	120
C T V R G L G P S Y C S F G E F Q D S S S S K A		
35	TGCACGTCCGGGTCTGGCCAAGCTATTGCAGCTTCGGCGAATTCCAGGACTCCTCTTCAAAGGCC	
	ACGTGACAGGGGCCAGAACGGGTTCGATAACGTCGAAGCCCTTAAGGTCTGAGGAGAAGGAGTTCCGG	
	CCGC [^] GG	G [^] AATTC
	SstII	EcoRI

ANALOG PRM2:

100	110	120
C T V R G L G P S F C S F G E F Q D S S S S K A		
5	TGCACTGTCCGCCGGTCTTGGCCAAAGCTTTGCAGCTTCGGCGAATTCAGGACTCCTCTTCAAAGGCC	
	ACGTGACAGGGCGCCAGAACCGGGTTGAAAACGTGCAAGCCGCTTAAGGTCTGAGGAAGGAGTTCCGG	
	CCGC^GG A^AGCTT G^AATTC	
	SstII HindIII EcoRI	

10 pSVL-PRM1 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells along with pSVL-hCG-alpha and the media were collected on the third day after transfection (27). The media were concentrated and analyzed by a sandwich immunoassay using antibodies A113 and radiolabeled B105. This analog combined with the alpha-subunit. It had high ability to bind to FSH receptors and relatively low ability to bind to LH receptors (Table 6).

20 pSVL-PRM2 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells along with pSVL-hCG-alpha and the media were collected on the third day after transfection (27). The media were concentrated and analyzed by a sandwich immunoassay using antibodies A113 and radiolabeled B105. This analog combined with the alpha-subunit. It had high ability to bind to FSH receptors and relatively low ability to bind to LH receptors (Table 6).

30 ANALOG PRM10: This is a full-length hCG beta-subunit analog in which residues 101-106 are replaced with residues 95-100 of hFSH beta-subunit. This analog was made by PCR using oligonucleotides 562 and 365 as PCR primers and MB135 as template. The resulting PCR product was cloned into the XhoI/SstII sites of PRM3. The structure of PRM10 was confirmed by double stranded dideoxy sequencing.

35 562: 5'-CCCAAGACCGCGGACAGTGCAGTCAGTGGTAGATCTGCG-3'

The sequence of PRM10 in the region 92-107 is:

93 100 107
L C R R S T T D C T V T G L G P
CTCTGCCGCAGATCTACCACTGACTGCAGTGTCCGGTCTGGGCC
5 GAGACGGCGTCTAGATGGTGACTGACGTGACAGGCGCCAGAACCGGG
A^GATCT CCGC^GG GGGCC^C
BglII SstII ApaI

ANALOG MB197: This is an analog of CF101-109
10 with the deletion of Arg95. It was made by ligating the
large fragment obtained by digestion of pSVL-MB144 with
XbaI/BglII with the small fragment obtained by digestion
of pSVL-MB194 using the same enzymes. The resulting
analog was only 113 residues in length and its sequence
15 between residues 88 and 99 is illustrated here.

88 93 99
C A L C R S T T D C
TGGCGCTGTGTAGATCTACTACCGACTGC
20 ACGCGCGACACATCTAGATGATGGCTGACG
G^CGCGC AGATCT
BssHII BglII

pSVL-MB197 was expressed in COS-7 cells along
25 with pSVL-hCG-alpha. This analog had low ability to form
dimer with the alpha-subunit. The analog was readily
detected in a beta-subunit specific sandwich assay
employing antibodies B201 and radiolabeled B105 as
capture and detection antibodies, respectively (Table 5).
30 This indicated that it acquired the overall folding
pattern of the beta-subunit.

ANALOG MB198: This is an analog of CF101-109
with the insertion of a Gln at residue 94. It was made
35 by ligating the large fragment obtained by digestion of
MB194 with XbaI and BglII to the small fragment obtained
by similar digestion of MB149 to create pSVL-MB194:

The ScaI and BssHII sites were destroyed and a BglII site was created. This information was used for screening. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB198 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. The analog was readily detected in a beta-subunit specific sandwich assay employing antibodies B201 and radiolabeled B105 as capture and detection antibodies, respectively (Table 5). This indicated that the beta-subunit folded.

20 ANALOG MB284: This is an analog of CF101-109 in which two residues have been deleted from the 93-100 region of the molecule. The analog was made by inserting the following oligonucleotide cassette into the large fragment remaining following digestion of pSVL-MB140 using BssHII and SstII.

25 632 5'-CGCGCTCTGTCGACGGACCGACTGCACTGTCCGC-3' and
633 3'-GAGACAGCTGCCCTGGCTGACGTGACAGG

This gave pSVL-MB284:

A SalI endonuclease restriction site was created and the ScaI site was destroyed. This information was used for screening. After its structure

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had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB284 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were found to contain small amounts of alpha, beta-heterodimer using the A113/B105 sandwich assay. The 5 analog was readily detected in a beta-subunit specific sandwich assay employing antibodies B201 and radiolabeled B105 as capture and detection antibodies, respectively (Table 5). This indicated that the beta-subunit folded.

10 ANALOG PRM26: The small fragment obtained by XhoI and SstII digestion of PRM10 was ligated to the large fragment obtained by XhoI and SstII digestion of PRM1 to give pSVL-PRM26. The resulting construct encoded residues 1-100 derived from the N-terminus of the hCG 15 beta-subunit, residues 101-114 derived from the hFSH beta-subunit (i.e., corresponding to hFSH beta-subunit residues 95-108), and residues 115-145 derived from the C-terminus hCG beta-subunit. pSVL-PRM26 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells along with pSVL-hCG-alpha 20 and the media were collected on the third day after transfection (27). The media were concentrated and analyzed by a sandwich immunoassay using antibodies A113 and radiolabeled B105. This analog combined with the alpha-subunit and the dimer had high LH activity 25 (Table 6).

ANALOG MB261: (Changes residues CRNSTTDCTVR of ANALOG MB201 to CRRSTTDCCGR).

30 Synthetic oligos 599 and 600 having the sequences:

599 5'-CGCGCTGTGTTAGAAGATCTACTACCGACTGCCGGCCGC-3' and
600 3'-GACACATCTTCTAGATGATGGCTGACGCCGCCGG-5'

35 were ligated into the large fragment obtained by BssHII and SstII digestion of pSVL-MB201 by standard methods to give pSVL-MB261:

	90	93	100
	C A L C R R S T T D C G G R K D G P S Y C		
	TGCGCGCTGTAGAAGATCTACTACCGACTGCCGGCGCAAGGACGGCCCTCTTATTGT		
	ACGCGCGACACATCTCTAGATGATGGCTGACGCCGCCGTTCTGCCGGAGAATAACA		
5	G^CGCGC	A^GATCT	
	BssHII	BglII	

A BglII site was created and used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB261 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the A113/B105 sandwich assay. This analog bound LH receptors similar to hCG (Table 5). Since 100ng did not inhibit the binding of 125 I-hFSH to human FSH receptors, it appears to have reduced activity for FSH receptors.

ANALOG MB272: (Changes residues CGGRGLGPSYC of ANALOG MB261 to CGGRKDGPSYC).

Synthetic oligos 624 and 625 having the sequences:

25 624 5'-AAGGACGGGCC-3' and
 625 3'-CGTCCTGC-5'

were ligated into the large fragment obtained by SstII and ApaI digestion of pSVL-MB201 by standard methods to give pSVL-MB272:

	90	93	100	110
	C A L C R R S T T D C G G R K D G P S Y C			
	TGCGCGCTGTAGAAGATCTACTACCGACTGCCGGCGCAAGGACGGCCCTCTTATTGT			
	ACGCGCGACACATCTCTAGATGATGGCTGACGCCGCCGTTCTGCCGGAGAATAACA			
	G^CGCGC	A^GATCT	G^GGCCC	
	BssHII	BglII	ApaI	

The SstII site found in pSVL-MB261 was destroyed and this was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB261 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the A113/B105 sandwich assay. This analog bound LH receptors similar to hCG (Table 5). Since 100ng did not inhibit the binding of ¹²⁵I-hFSH to human FSH receptors, it appears to have reduced activity for FSH receptors.

ANALOG MB275: (Changes residues CGGRGLGPSYC of ANALOG MB201 to CGGRKDGPSYC).

15

Oligos 624 and 625 were ligated into the large fragment obtained by SstII and ApaI digestion of pSVL-MB201 by standard methods to give pSVL-MB275:

20	90	93	100	110
	C A L C R N S T T D C T V R K D G P S Y C			
	TGCGCGCTGTGTCGGAATTCTACTACCGACTGCACTGTCCGCAAGGACGGGCCCTCTTATTGT			
	ACGGCGCACACGCTTAAGATGATGGCTGACGTGACAGGCCTTCCTGCCCCGGAGATAACA			
	G^CGCGC	G^AATTC		G^GGCCC
25	BssHII	EcoRI		ApaI

The SstII site found in pSVL-MB201 was destroyed and this was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB261 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the A113/B105 sandwich assay. This analog bound LH receptors similar to hCG (Table 5). Since 100ng did not inhibit the binding of ¹²⁵I-hFSH to human FSH receptors, it appears to have reduced activity for FSH receptors.

ANALOG MB283: (Changes residues CVTRGLGPSYC of CF101-109 to CVTRGLGPLT).

5 Synthetic oligos 626 and 627 having the sequences:

627: 5'-CTTAAC TTGTGATGATCCTAGATAAG-3' and
626: 3'-CCGGGAATTGAACACTACTAGGATCTATTCTAG-5'

10 were ligated with the large fragment of CF101-109 remaining following ApaI and BamHI digestion to give pSVL-MB283:

100	110
15	C T V R G L G P L T C D D P R *
	TGCACCGTGAGAGGCCCTCGGCCCTTAAC TTGTGATGATCCTAGATAAGGATCC
	ACGTGGCACTCTCCGACCCGGGAATTGAACACTACTAGGATCTATTCTAGG
	AGG^CCT
	G^GATCC
20	SstI
	BamHI

The SstI site found in CF101-109 was destroyed and the loss of the site was used for screening of the DNA construct during cloning. After its structure had been confirmed by DNA sequencing, pSVL-MB261 was co-transfected into COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha. Media were concentrated and found to contain alpha, beta-heterodimer using the A113/B105 sandwich assay. This analog bound LH receptors similar to hCG (Table 5). Since 100ng did not inhibit the binding of ¹²⁵I-hFSH to 30 human FSH receptors, it appears to have reduced activity for FSH receptors.

ANALYSES

35 Quantification of analogs: The analogs were measured in sandwich immunoassays (28) using antibody A113 as a capture reagent and radiolabeled antibody B105 as a detection reagent. hCG was used as the standard. A113 binds to the alpha-subunit and B105 binds to the

beta-subunit. In some cases, the analogs were also quantified using a sandwich assay employing antibodies B109 or B107 as capture reagents and radiolabeled antibody B105 as a detection reagent. Antibodies B105, 5 B107, and B109 bind to residues in the beta-subunit not changed in the analogs described here (30). For those analogs which had low activity in the A113/B105 sandwich assay, we measured the free beta-subunit to learn if it were being expressed. To do this we substituted antibody 10 B201 for A113 and performed the remainder of the assay as described (28). B201 binds to an epitope on the beta-subunit much better than to hCG. To be certain that failure to obtain alpha, beta-heterodimers was not related to lack of alpha-subunit, we also measured the 15 free alpha-subunit using antibodies A501 and radiolabeled A202 in place of A113 and radiolabeled B105. A501 binds free alpha-subunit much better than hCG.

FSH receptor binding: Binding of analogs to 20 FSH receptors was measured using a CHO cell line that had been transfected with a cDNA encoding the human FSH receptor. This cell line was obtained from AAT, Randolph, MA and was grown in suspension culture in alphaMEM containing 10% fetal bovine serum. On the day 25 of the experiment cells were harvested, washed in phosphate buffered saline, and counted. Aliquots of 200,000 to 1,000,000 cells were incubated with ^{125}I -hFSH and FSH standards or analogs to be tested for 1 hour at $37\frac{1}{2}\text{C}$ in Krebs-Hepes buffer (28). The cells were 30 collected by sedimentation at 1000xg for 10-15 min and the supernate containing the non-bound hormone was aspirated. The amount of radioactivity remaining in the cell pellets was determined in a gamma counter.

LH receptor binding: Binding of analogs to LH 35 receptors was determined using a CHO cell line that had been transfected with a cDNA encoding the rat LH receptor (29) or with a cell line that had been transfected with the human LH receptor (31). The procedure used was

identical to that described for FSH receptor binding except that ^{125}I -hCG and hCG were substituted for ^{125}I -hFSH and hFSH.

5 Cyclic AMP assays: CHO cells expressing rat LH receptors, human LH receptors, or human FSH receptors were incubated with analogs and hCG or hFSH for 10-15 minutes and then placed in a boiling water bath for 1 min. The cyclic AMP was measured using a cyclic AMP
10 immunoassay (32).

ACTIVITIES OF ANALOGS

15 Interaction of analogs CF101-109 and CF94-117 with human LH and FSH receptors (Figure 3): CF101-109 and CF94-117 are analogs of both hCG and hFSH. CF94-117 has been shown to bind FSH receptors (27) and here we illustrate that CF101-109 binds both LH and FSH receptors. Previous studies employed rat LH and FSH
20 receptors and bovine FSH receptors (27). We expected that analogs of the human hormones which bound rat receptors would also bind to human receptors and initiate signal transduction. To confirm this prediction, we tested the abilities of CF94-117 (27) and CF101-109 to bind to human LH and FSH receptors stably expressed in Chinese hamster ovary CHO cells. Both CF94-117 and CF101-109 inhibited binding of ^{125}I -hFSH to human FSH receptors (Figure 3). In addition, CF101-109 inhibited the binding of ^{125}I -hCG to human LH receptors at about
25 the same potency as hCG. CF101-109 and CF94-117 induced cyclic AMP accumulation in CHO cells expressing human FSH receptors, albeit with slightly lower potency than hFSH. It is not possible to provide exact potency estimates since the amounts of analogs used in these studies were
30 determined against an hCG standard in sandwich immunoassays. As illustrated in Table 4, some antibody combinations give quantitatively different results than others. CF101-109 induced rounding of Y-1 cells transfected with genes that stably express LH receptors

(i.e., Y-1L cells) or FSH receptors (i.e., Y-1F cells). Rounding of Y-1 cells has long been correlated with responses to hormones such as ACTH for which the cells have ACTH receptors (33). Y-1F cells rounded in response to hFSH but not hCG whereas Y-1L cells rounded in response to hCG but not hFSH. This suggests that rounding is an index of response to any hormone which can induce cyclic AMP formation in cells derived from the original Y-1 line. Since both Y-1F and Y-1L cells respond to CF101-109, this analog must be functionally interacting with FSH and LH receptors in these cells. In addition, the Y-1 cells transfected with FSH receptors made progesterone in response to CF101-109 and hFSH but not to hCG (Figure 4). This further suggests that CF101-109 can elicit a physiological response such as steroid production.

Abilities of analogs of CF101-109 to combine with alpha-subunit. To determine if analogs of CF101-109 would combine with the alpha-subunit to form a heterodimer, we subjected culture media from transfected cells to sandwich assays that detected alpha, beta heterodimers. All results were quantified using an hCG standard. Most assays employed A113 (i.e., an antibody specific for the alpha-subunit) and B105 (i.e., an antibody specific for the beta-subunit). Although B105 does not bind to hFSH, it has been shown to bind to CF94-117 (27). This is an analog in which all residues between 94 and 117 are derived from hFSH beta-subunit. Therefore, B105 binds a part of the beta-subunit outside the region that was modified in the studies described here. In some studies, we also employed antibodies B107 or B109 and B105. B107 and B109 have also been shown to bind to portions of the -subunit outside the region modified in these studies (30). Although the antibodies used in these assays were chosen on the basis of the fact that they recognized different regions of the hormone than was modified in these studies, slight changes in the conformations of the alpha- and/or beta-subunits caused

by the mutations may have influenced binding of the analogs to the antibodies (B107 and B110 which are known to be sensitive to conformation of the beta-subunit which occurs during formation of the alpha, beta-heterodimer 5 (30)). We observed differences in the absolute amounts of analogs depending on the sandwich immunoassays which were employed. As a rule, sandwich assays using B109 and B105 gave lower estimates than those assays which employed other antibody combinations (Table 4). None the 10 less, differences in the amounts of material present in the media were not correlated with the activities of the analogs in either LH receptor or FSH receptor assays. It should also be noted that the same batches of analogs 15 were used in FSH and LH receptor assays. Thus, estimates in the amounts of analog present in culture medium do not enter into the calculation of the ratio of LH to FSH activity. Except as noted in Table 4, the data illustrated in all tables and figures were obtained using the A113/B105* sandwich assay.

20

The results of sandwich immunoassays indicated that all the analogs we made except for MB140, MB197, MB198, and MB284 formed alpha, beta dimers when co-expressed with the human alpha-subunit. Cells expressing 25 the human alpha-subunit and MB140, MB197, MB198, or MB284 beta-subunits did not produce much alpha, beta-heterodimer. These were the only analogs in this series which had a different number of residues in the region between Cys93 and Cys100 than is found in all naturally occurring hormone beta-subunits (34). Every analog we 30 prepared which contained 6 amino acid residues between Cys93 and Cys100 combined with the alpha-subunit and was detected in A113/B105* sandwich immunoassays. These included analogs which contain a glycosylation signal at residue 94 (i.e., MB145), residue 95 (i.e., MB201), or residue 35 96 (i.e., MB148) as well as analogs with three positive charges (i.e., MB278) or four negative charges (i.e., MB279) between Cys93 and Cys100. Thus, we anticipate that mutations in this region will be

tolerated as long as they do not change the size of the Cys93-Cys100 loop.

5 EFFECTS OF MUTATIONS IN RESIDUES 94-97 OF CF101-109 ON LH
 AND FSH ACTIVITY

10 Results of LH Binding Assays (Figures 3, 4a, and 4c). In the parent application, we noted that CF101-109 bound to rat LH receptors and bovine FSH receptors. As illustrated in Figure 3, CF101-109 binds to human LH receptors and human FSH receptors. In the studies reported here we have used the rat LH receptor and human LH and FSH receptors to test the activities of the CF101-109 analogs. Modification of residues in the region of the molecule between 94-97 altered the affinities of CF101-109 analogs for LH receptors more than it altered their affinities for FSH receptors (Figure 3). The charge of the amino acids in this region was correlated with LH activity (Figures 4a and 4c). Binding to LH receptors was enhanced when at least one positive charge or no negative charges were present in the 94-97 region. Thus, while analogs MB154 (ASDT), MB152 (DSAT), MB202 (DSDT), and MB279 (DDDT) competed well with ^{125}I -hFSH for binding to FSH receptors, they had the lowest ability to compete with ^{125}I -hCG for binding to LH receptors. Inclusion of a positive charge or replacement of a negative charge with one positive charge resulted in much better binding to LH receptors without substantially altering binding to FSH receptors. Thus, analogs MB151 (DSRT) and MB147 (RSDT) were more active than MB154 (ASDT), MB152 (DSAT), MB202 (DSDT) or MB279 (DDDT) in the LH receptor assay. Elimination of all negative charges was sufficient to increase the LH activity. Thus MB155 (QIST) was more active than MB154 (ASDT), MB152 (DSAT), MB202 (DSDT) or MB279 (DDDT). As a rule, analogs with no negative charges had the greatest ability to bind to LH receptors. These included MB149 (QRST), MB150 (RQST), MB145 (NRST), MB201 (RNST) and MB194 (RSRT). With some exceptions, notably the lower activity of MB147 (RSDT)

relative to that of MB151 (DSRT), the locations of the charged residues had only a small influence on binding to LH receptors. For example, both MB149 (QRST) and MB150 (RQST) were very active even though they have Arg 5 residues at different positions. Likewise, the ratio of LH/FSH activity of MB151 (DSRT) was only slightly less than that of MB147 (RSDT). While most position effects were relatively minor, the residue in which a negative charge had the greatest influence on LH receptor binding 10 appeared to be number 96. These results suggest that analogs having high FSH specificity can be prepared by substituting negative charges in the region of the molecule between Cys93 and Cys100. Use of positive charges in this region is expected to lead to enhanced LH 15 receptor interactions.

Results of FSH Binding Assays (Figures 3 and 4b). In general, substitutions in the region between 94 and 97 had a much lower effect in the FSH binding assays 20 than in the LH binding assays. Most analogs were more than 20% as active as FSH in this assay. The major exception to this statement was analog MB153 (DRDT). This analog was more active in LH receptor binding assays 25 than in FSH receptor binding assays even though it had negative charges at residues 94 and 96.

Results of LH-receptor induced cyclic AMP formation assays (Figure 7). Most analogs which bound to LH receptors were capable of stimulating cyclic AMP 30 formation. Their potency relative to hCG was similar to their potency relative to hCG in receptor binding assays.

Results of FSH-receptor induced cyclic AMP formation assays (Figure 7). Most analogs which bound to 35 FSH receptors were capable of stimulating cyclic AMP formation. Their potency in this assay was only approximately 10% of that of their expected potency based on their abilities to bind to FSH receptors. CF94-117 was also somewhat less capable of eliciting cyclic AMP

accumulation in CHO cells bearing FSH receptors. This observation is surprising because CF94-117 was nearly equally effective as FSH in inducing steroidogenesis in cultured granulosa cells (27), a response presumed to be mediated by cyclic AMP (35). This, in the case of FSH receptors, we anticipate that the ability of all analogs to stimulate granulosa cell steroidogenesis will be better than their abilities to stimulate cyclic AMP accumulation in cells that stably express the FSH receptor.

EFFECTS OF MUTATIONS IN RESIDUES 101-114 OF CF101-109 ON LH AND FSH ACTIVITY

The region of the beta-subunit between residues 108 and the C-terminus was found to influence the specificity of hormone binding. We observed that analog MB202 had at least 10-fold greater ability than CF94-117 to bind to LH receptors (Table 6). The differences between MB202 and CF94-117 include the substitution of Thr for Ser97 and the sequence AspAspProArg for SerPheGlyGluMetLysGlu at the C-terminus. Previous studies indicated that CF94-114 had equal activity as CF94-117 (27) suggesting that the three residues at the very C-terminus of hFSH (i.e., MetLysGlu) did not have a role in binding specificity. To identify a role for Ser97 in binding specificity, we prepared PRM8. This analog differed from MB202 only in the presence of Ser at position 97. PRM8 bound to LH receptors better than CF94-117 suggesting that Ser97 was not important for discriminating LH and FSH receptors. It also suggested that residues between 111 and 114 or 111 and 117 had an important role in suppressing binding of FSH to LH receptors. To examine an influence of the C-terminus, we prepared PRM1 and PRM2. PRM1 is similar in structure to CF94-114 (27) except that it also contains residues 115-145 of the hCG C-terminus. PRM1 had similar abilities as CF94-117 to distinguish LH and FSH receptors. This suggested that FSH residues 111, 112, 114, and/or 114

were needed to reduce LH receptor binding to the level observed in CF94-114 or CF94-117. The influence of residues 111-114 on LH receptor interaction is lower than that of residues between 94-97. By comparing the 5 activities of PRM26 (Table 6), PRM1 (Table 6), and CF94-97, 108-114 (Table 3), it can be seen that substituting hFSH beta-subunit sequences 105-108 for residues 111-114 does not appear to substantially alter the ability of the analog to bind to LH receptors when residues 94-97 or 10 residues 101-106 of the analogs are derived from hCG beta-subunit. However, CF94-114, CF94-117, PRM1, and PRM2 have low LH activity. This shows that substitution of hFSH beta-subunit residues 105-108 for analogs 111-114 can modulate LH receptor activity when residues 94-108 15 are derived from hFSH beta-subunit. The ability of PRM2 to bind to FSH receptors suggests that substitution of Phe for Tyr109 does not alter binding specificity or affinity.

20 In further support of a role of residues between 101-109 in FSH receptor binding, we observed that PRM3, an analog which differed from PRM1 by the presence of hCG beta-subunit sequences in the region between residues 108-114, bound poorly to LH receptors yet had unexpectedly low affinity for FSH receptors. The low 25 binding of PRM3 to LH receptors was caused by the presence of negative charges in the region of the molecule between residues 94 and 97. Since CF101-109 binds FSH receptors well and PRM3 has low affinity for FSH receptors, it appears that residues 108 and 109 contribute to the ability of the heterodimer to recognize LH and FSH receptors. Suppression of LH binding activity in PRM8 and MB202 requires modification of amino acids between residues 111 and 114. The ability of PRM2 to 30 bind to FSH receptors suggests that substitution of Phe for Tyr109 does not alter binding specificity or affinity. 35

The following are the preferred analogs of the invention:

5 CF101-109, MB278: These two analogs give high binding to both LH and FSH receptors and are active in inducing a biological response.

10 PRM1, PRM2: These two analogs have the greatest selectivity to FSH receptors.

15 MB202: This analog has high FSH activity with small amounts of LH activity.

This invention teaches the regions of the glycoprotein hormone beta-subunit which controls the LH and FSH receptor binding activity. These regions are found between the 10th and 12th cysteine residues. A secondary determinant is also found within a few residues C-terminal of the 12th cysteine. Since the overall structure of the glycoprotein hormones has been conserved during evolution, it is expected that the same regions of all vertebrate gonadotropins are involved in receptor binding specificity. Thus, to obtain analogs with high LH and FSH activity, one would prepare alpha, beta-heterodimers from the glycoprotein alpha-subunit and a beta-subunit analog of LH in which the region between the 11th and 12th cysteines was substituted by the residues found between the 11th and 12th cysteines of FSH. To reduce the LH activity of this analog, one would substitute residues between the 10th and 11th cysteines with those found between the 10th and 11th cysteines of FSH. In the case of mammalian hormones, one can also reduce the positive charges and/or increase the negative charges in this region. To reduce the LH activity further in this analog, one would substitute the residues immediately C-terminal of the 12th cysteine with those of FSH. To influence the FSH activity of this analog, one would alter the residues between the 11th and 12th cysteine. One effective strategy in reducing FSH

activity is to employ residues from LH. By manipulating the residues between the 10th and 12th cysteines in the LH or CG beta-subunits in this way, one can prepare analogs of glycoprotein hormones with nearly any desired receptor binding specificity. In addition, by use of positive charges between the 10th and 11th cysteines, it is possible in mammalian hormone to enhance the binding of the analog to either LH or FSH receptors. Since residues between the 1st and 10th cysteine residues of the beta-subunit do not have a great influence on receptor binding specificity, the composition of residues in this region will be of much less importance.

15

TABLE 4*

Antibody Combination

	Analog	B109/B105*	B107/B105*	A113/B105*
		(ug/uL)	(ug/uL)	(ug/uL)
20	MB144 (DRST)	0.17	1.01	0.41
	MB145 (NRST)	0.40	1.53	1.79
	MB146 (RSST)	0.12	0.15	0.11
	MB147 (RSDT)	0.02	0.03	0.04
	MB148 (RSNT)	0.00	0.01	0.03
25	MB149 (QRST)	0.16	0.87	1.45
	MB151 (DSRT)	0.09	1.67	2.33
	MB152 (DSAT)	0.03	1.72	0.45
	MB153 (DRDT)	0.00	0.12	0.10
	MB154 (ASDT)	0.06	1.88	3.08
30	MB155 (QIST)	0.10	1.32	1.77
	MB140 (DLRST)	0.00	0.00	0.00

* Comparison of estimates of the amounts of analog present in unconcentrated culture medium (ug/uL) by sandwich assays employing antibody A113-B105 and B109-B105 combinations and hCG as a reference standard. Not all analogs were examined in the B109/B105* or B107/B105* sandwich assays. We used the values obtained from the A113/B105* assay as the basis for all subsequent studies.

TABLE 5 *

Analog	Unconcentrated	Unconcentrated	Unconcentrated	50-Fold
	alpha-subunit (ng/ml)	beta-subunit (ng/ml)	alpha, beta-heterodimer (ng/ml)	Concentrated alpha, beta-heterodimer (ng/ml)
MB140	4.8 +/- 0.9	18.5 +/- 2.2	3.2 +/- 0.6	58.6 +/- 3.2
MB197	4.1 +/- 0.3	14.7 +/- 2.8	-2.1 +/- 1.3	6.2 +/- 1.8
MB198	3.7 +/- 0.6	12.9 +/- 4.6	-1.6 +/- 1.3	7.7 +/- 3.2
MB284	7.9 +/- 2.8	32.0 +/- 10.3	-2.4 +/- 1.1	5.0 +/- 2.6
CF101-109	5.7 +/- 0.7	21.8 +/- 3.0	9.6 +/- 2.3	offscale

* Influence of the size of the beta-subunit region between Cys93 and Cys100 on the ability of analogs to form alpha, beta heterodimers when they are co-expressed in COS-7 cells with pSVL-hCG-alpha, an expression vector encoding the human alpha-subunit.

TABLE 6 *

	Analog	LH Binding Activity (relative to hCG)	FSH Binding Activity (relative to hFSH)
5	CF94-117	0.001	0.5
	CF94-114*	0.001	1
	PRM1	<0.001	0.1
	PRM2	<0.001	0.2
10	PRM8	0.08	not measured
	MB202	0.06	0.4
	PRM3	0.02	<0.001
	PRM26	1	not measured

15 * Effect of residues near Cys110 on receptor binding specificity. The analogs were tested for their abilities to bind to LH and FSH receptors.

20 Notes: The values illustrated were determined by measuring the ability of the analogs to inhibit the binding of ^{125}I -hCG to intact cells stably expressing LH receptors and the binding of ^{125}I -hFSH to intact cells stably expressing FSH receptors. *The values for CF94-25 114 were taken from our earlier publication and were determined using tissue homogenates (27).

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20 The invention being thus described, it will be
obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such
variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the
spirit and scope of the invention and all such
modifications are intended to be included within the
25 scope of the following claims.

We claim:

1. An alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide having binding affinity to vertebrate luteinizing hormone
5 receptors and vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors comprising a glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring beta-subunit polypeptide, wherein the beta-subunit polypeptide is a chain of amino acids comprising the
10 following four joined subsequences:

(a) a first subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 1-93 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic
15 gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH);

20 (b) a second subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 94-97 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) and vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH);

25 (c) a third subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 98-100 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and
30 vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH); and

(d) a fourth subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 101-110 of the beta-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

2. The alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide is a human alpha-subunit polypeptide.

5

3. The alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide is the alpha-subunit of hCG.

10

4. The alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the first subsequence is homologous to residues 1-93 of the beta-subunit of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), the second subsequence is homologous to residues 94-97 of the beta-subunit of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), the third subsequence is homologous to residues 98-100 of the beta-subunit of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), and the fourth subsequence is homologous to residues 101-110 of the beta-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

20

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide according to claim 1.

25

6. An alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide having greater binding affinity for vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors than for vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH) receptors comprising a glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring beta-subunit polypeptide, wherein the beta-subunit polypeptide is a chain of amino acids comprising the following four joined subsequences:

35

(a) a first subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 1-93 of the beta-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH);

(b) a second subsequence comprising 4 amino acids for residues 94-97;

5 (c) a third subsequence comprising 3 amino acids for residues 98-100; and

10 (d) a fourth subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 101-110 of the beta-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

7. An alpha, beta-heterodimeric polypeptide having binding affinity to follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors and luteinizing hormone (LH) receptors
15 comprising a glycoprotein hormone alpha-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring beta-subunit polypeptide, wherein the beta-subunit polypeptide is a chimera comprised of amino acids 1-100 of any vertebrate glycoprotein hormone homologous to amino acids found in residues 1-100 of human chorionic gonadotropin and any 1-
20 amino acids which binds LH receptors better than FSH receptors and has biological activity.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 30 November 1992 (30.11.92);
original claims 1-7 replaced by amended claims 1-8 (3 pages)]

1. An *alpha, beta*-heterodimeric polypeptide having binding affinity to vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH) receptors and vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors consisting essentially of a glycoprotein hormone *alpha*-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring *beta*-subunit polypeptide, wherein the *beta*-subunit polypeptide is a chain of amino acids comprising the following four joined subsequences:

(a) a first subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 1-93 (hCG numbering) of the *beta*-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH);

(b) a second subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 94-97 (hCG numbering) of the *beta*-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) and vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH);

(c) a third subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 98-100 (hCG numbering) of the *beta*-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH); and

(d) a fourth subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 95-104 (FSH numbering) of the *beta*-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

2. The *alpha, beta*-heterodimeric polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the glycoprotein hormone *alpha*-subunit polypeptide is a human *alpha*-subunit polypeptide.

3. The *alpha, beta*-heterodimeric polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the glycoprotein hormone *alpha*-subunit polypeptide is the *alpha*-subunit of hCG.

4. The *alpha, beta*-heterodimeric polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the first subsequence is homologous to residues 1-93 of the *beta*-subunit of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), the second subsequence is homologous to residues 94-97 of the *beta*-subunit of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), the third subsequence is homologous to residues 98-100 of the *beta*-subunit of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), and the fourth subsequence is homologous to residues 101-110 of the *beta*-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the *alpha, beta*-heterodimeric polypeptide according to claim 1.

6. An *alpha, beta*-heterodimeric polypeptide having greater binding affinity than luteinizing hormone (LH) for vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors consisting essentially of a glycoprotein hormone *alpha*-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring *beta*-subunit polypeptide, wherein the *beta*-subunit polypeptide is a chain of amino acids comprising the following four joined subsequences:

(a) a first subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 1-93 (hCG numbering) of the *beta*-subunit selected from the group consisting of human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG), vertebrate luteinizing hormone (LH), vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and vertebrate thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH);

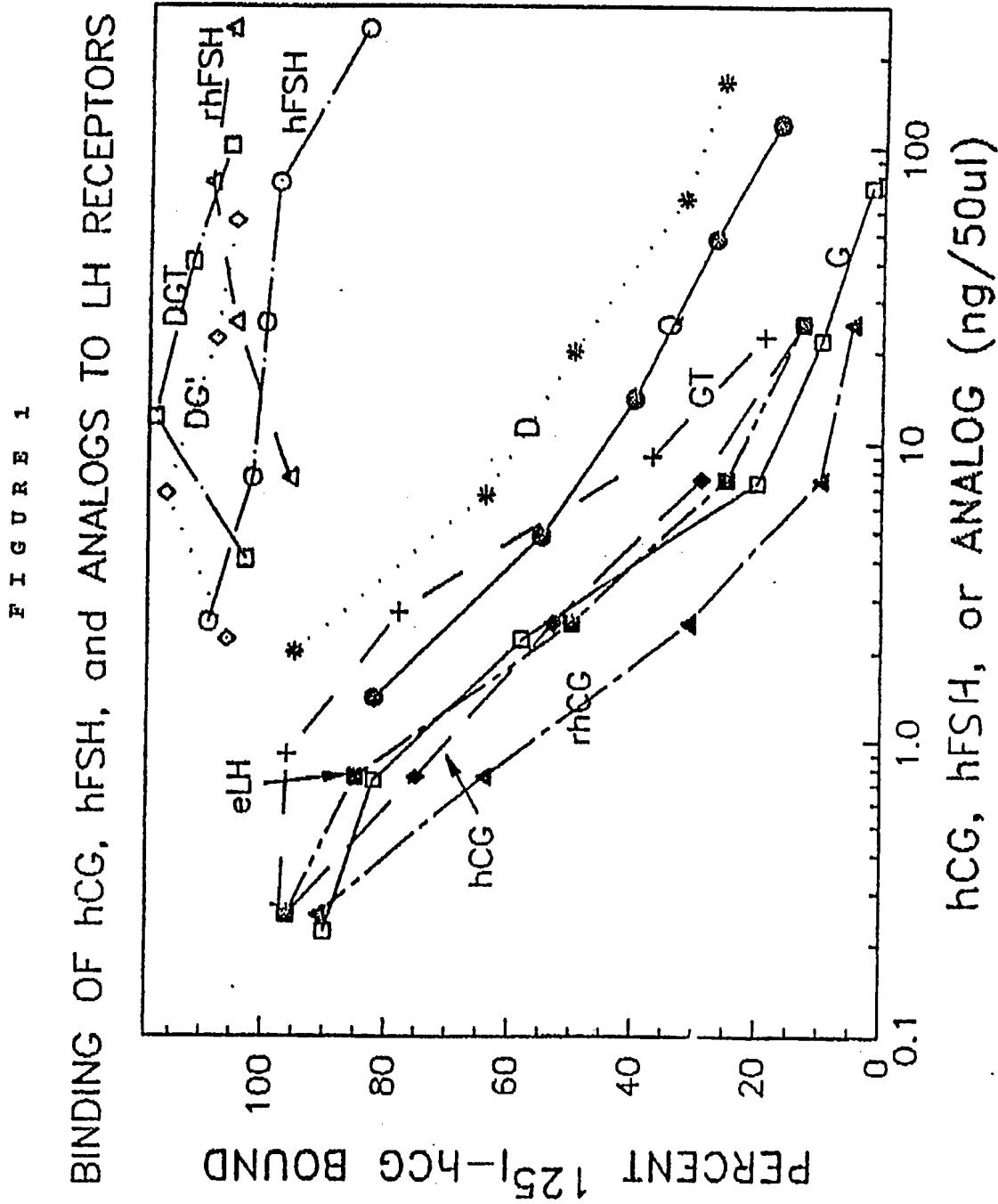
(b) a second subsequence comprising 4 amino acids for residues 94-97 (hCG numbering);

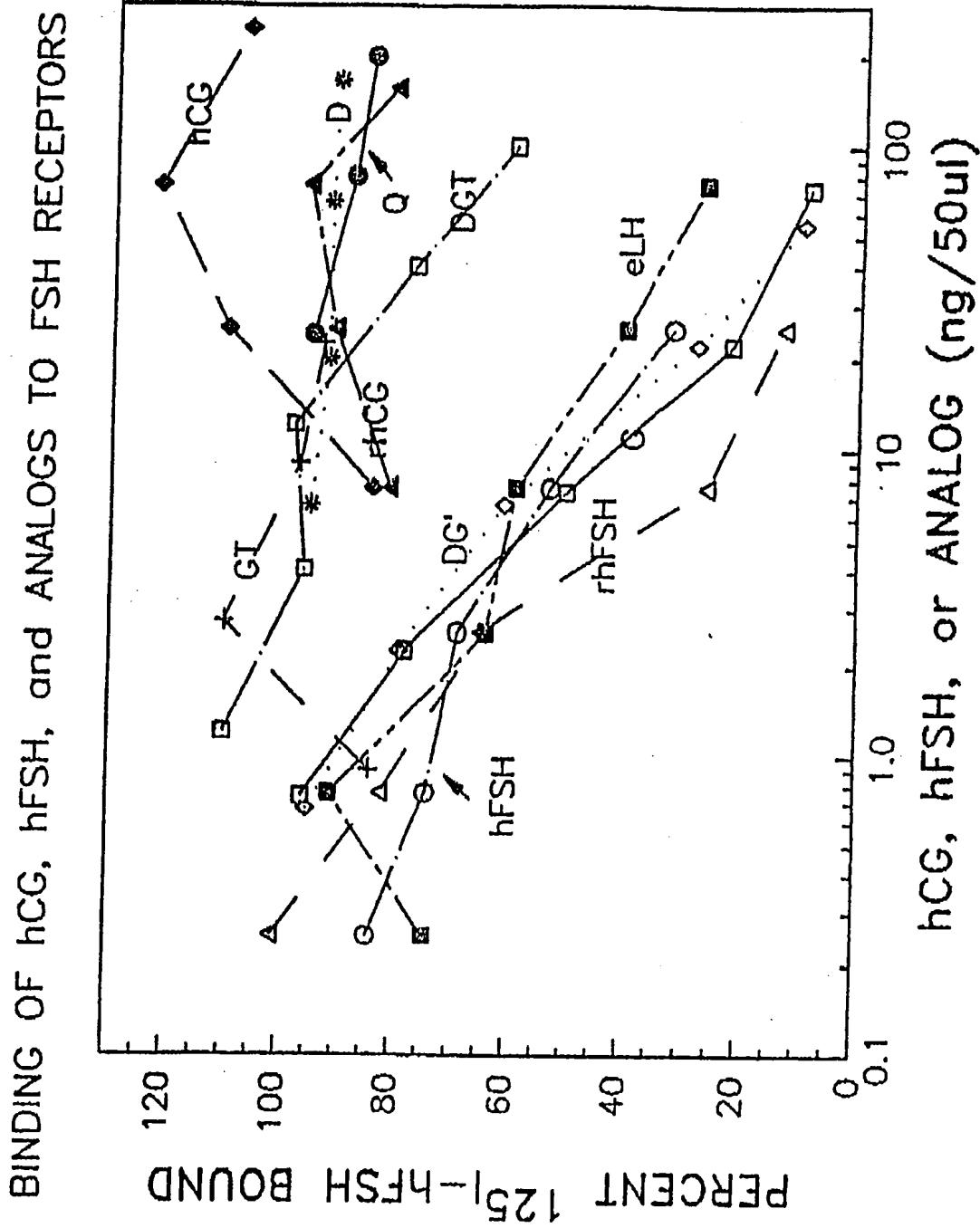
(c) a third subsequence comprising 3 amino acids for residues 98-100 (hCG numbering); and

(d) a fourth subsequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of residues 95-104 (FSH numbering) of the *beta*-subunit of vertebrate follicle stimulating hormone.

7. The *alpha, beta*-heterodimeric polypeptide according to claim 6, wherein residues 94-97 are other than Asp-Ser-Asp-Ser.

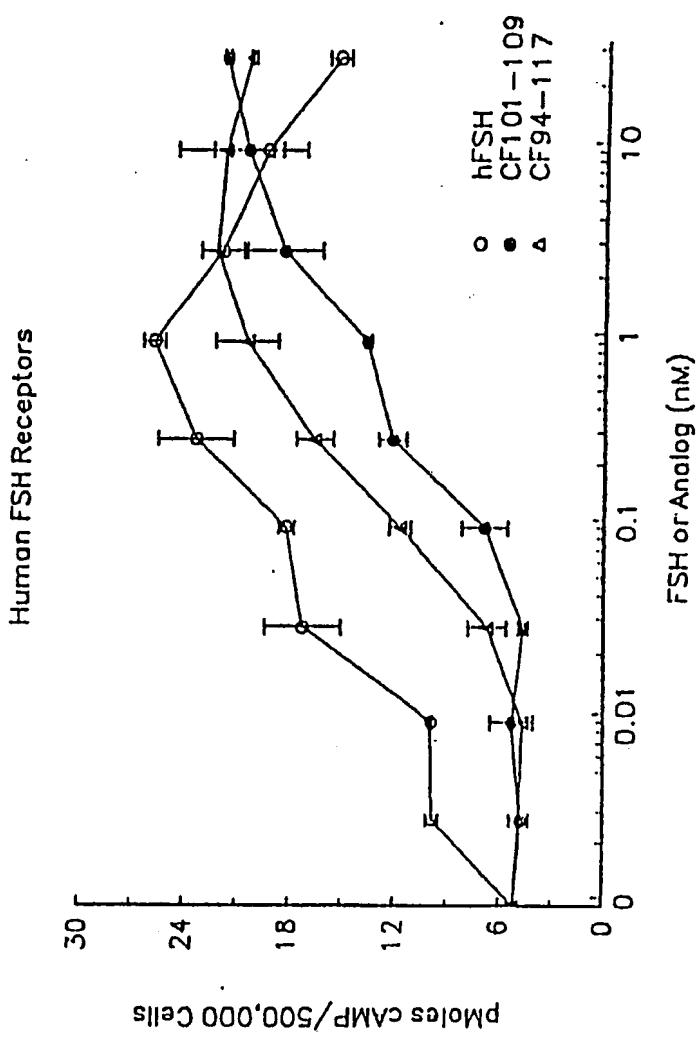
8. An *alpha, beta*-heterodimeric polypeptide having greater binding affinity than luteinizing hormone for follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) receptors consisting essentially of a glycoprotein hormone *alpha*-subunit polypeptide and a non-naturally occurring *beta*-subunit polypeptide, wherein the *beta*-subunit polypeptide is a chimera comprised of amino acids 1-100 of any vertebrate glycoprotein hormone homologous to amino acids found in residues 1-100 of human chorionic gonadotropin and any 1-20 amino acids which binds LH receptors better than FSH receptors and has biological activity.





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FIGURE 3A



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FIGURE 3B

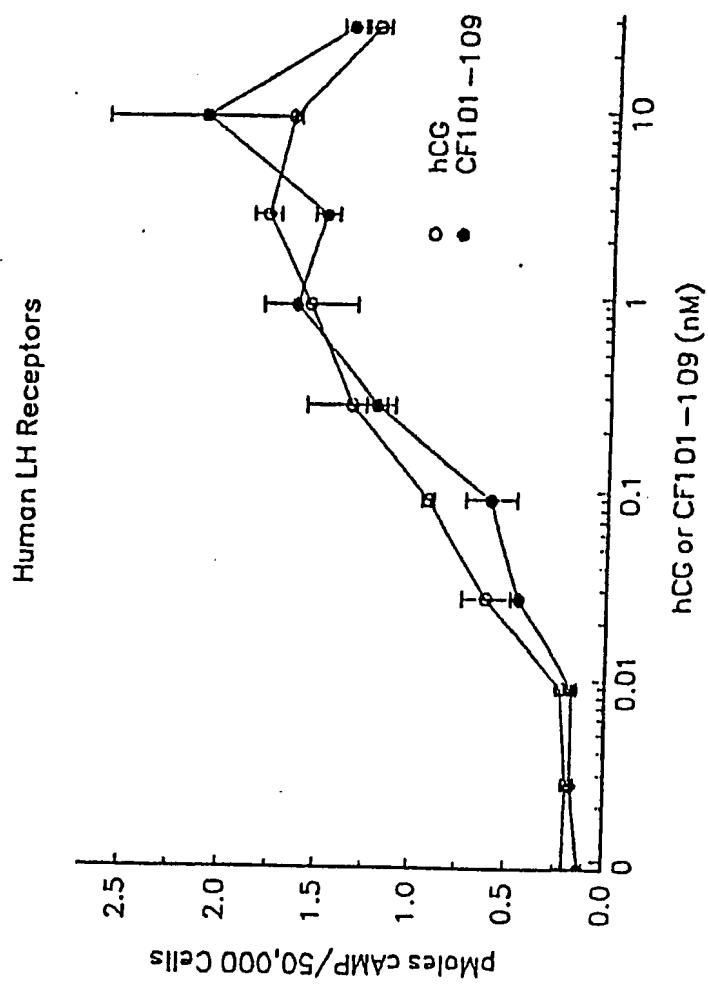
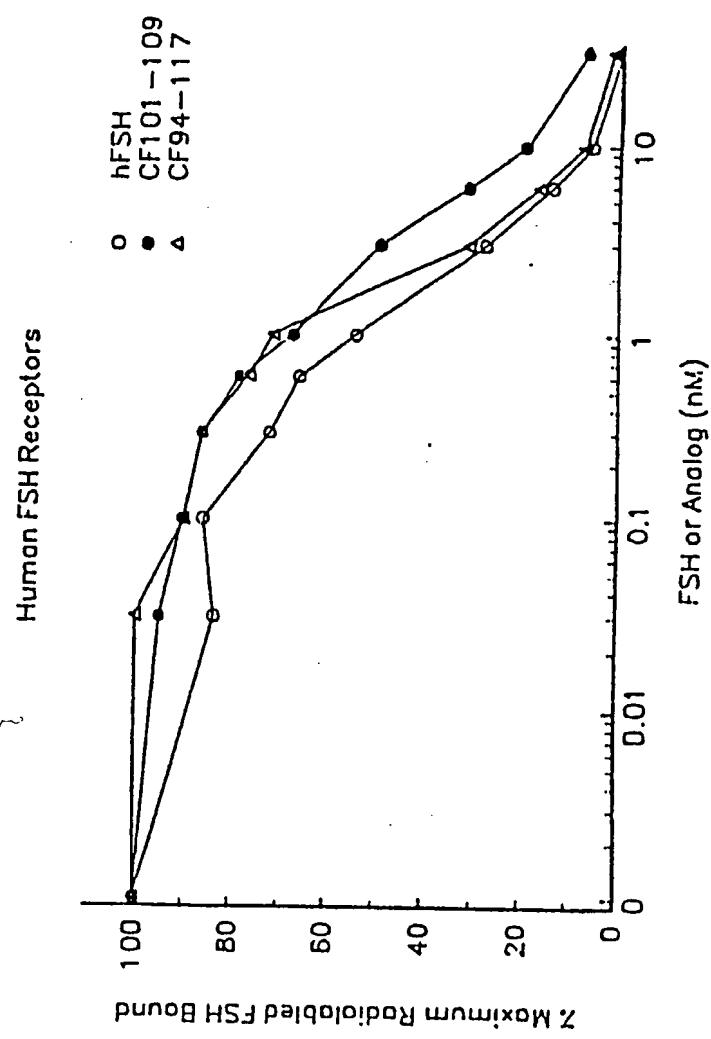
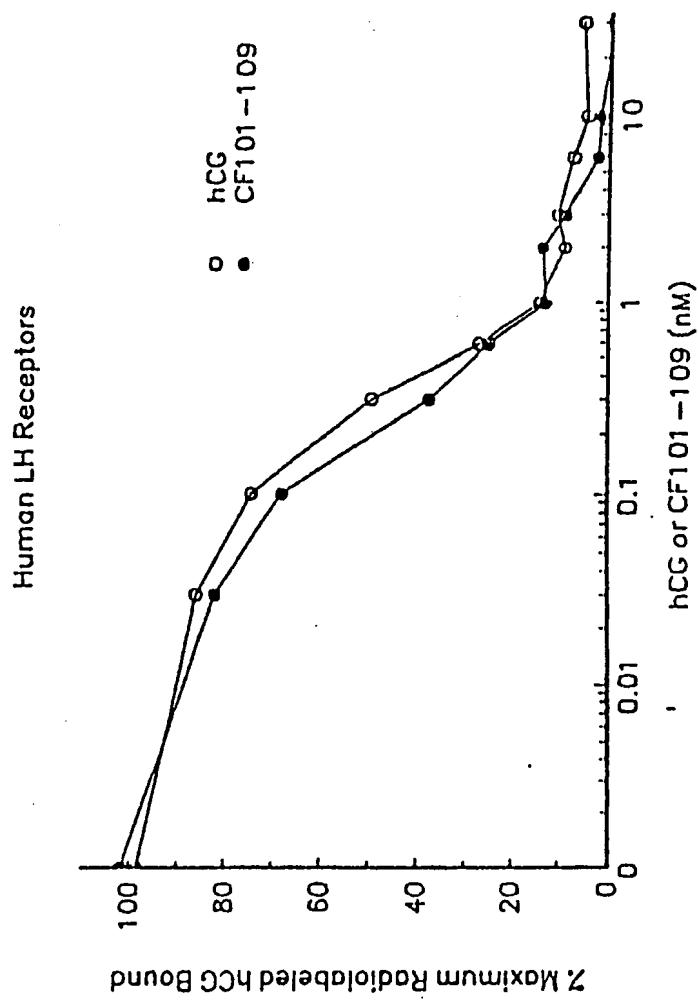


FIGURE 3C



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FIGURE 3D



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FIGURE 4

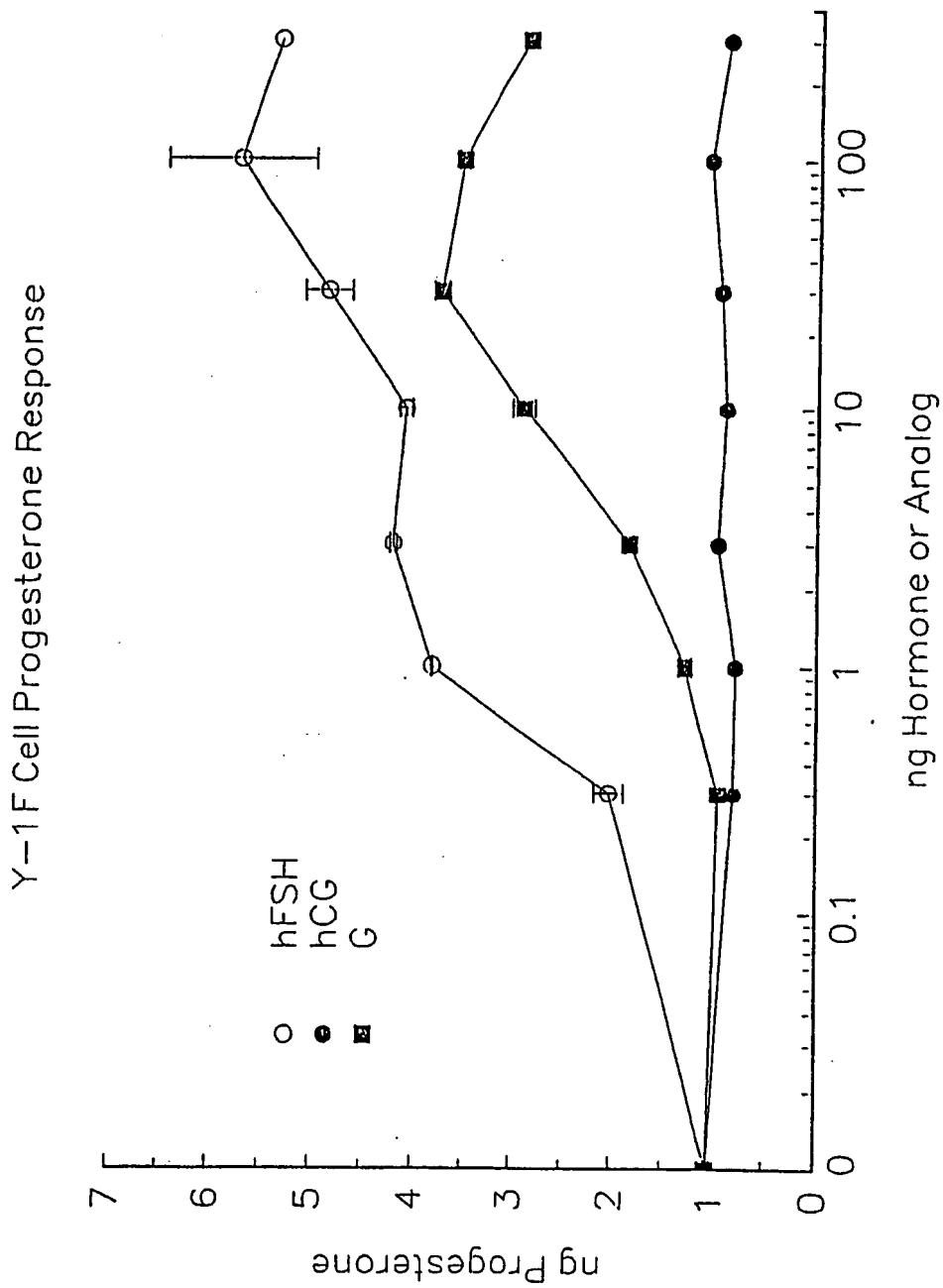


FIGURE 5

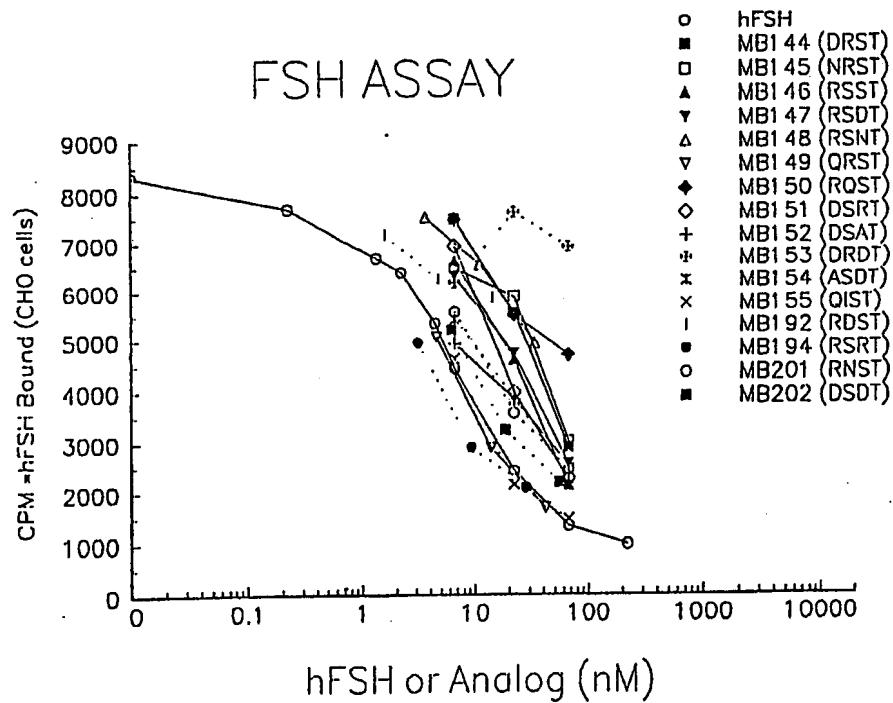
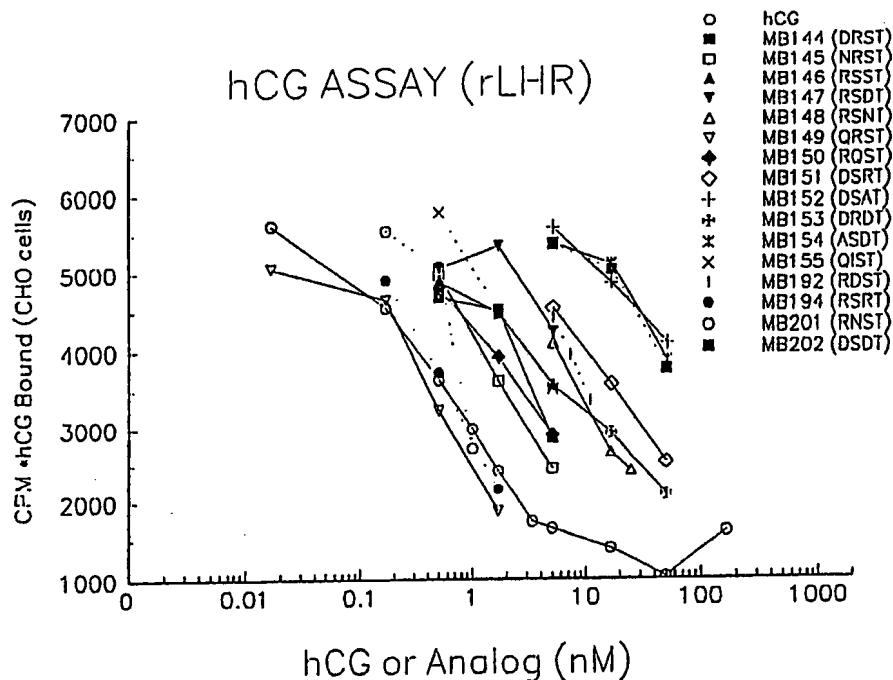


FIGURE 6A

Effect of Charge on FSH Receptor Binding

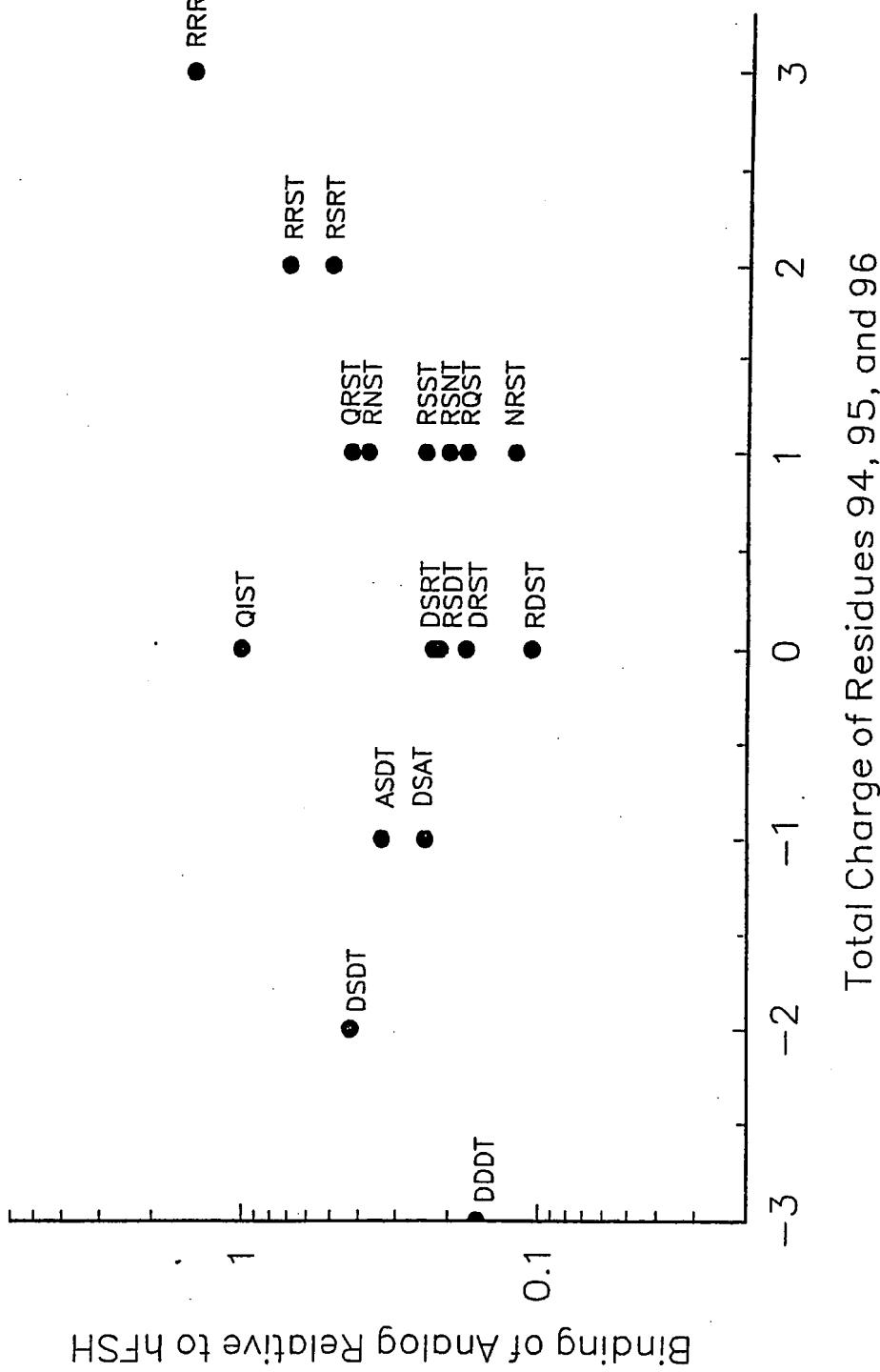
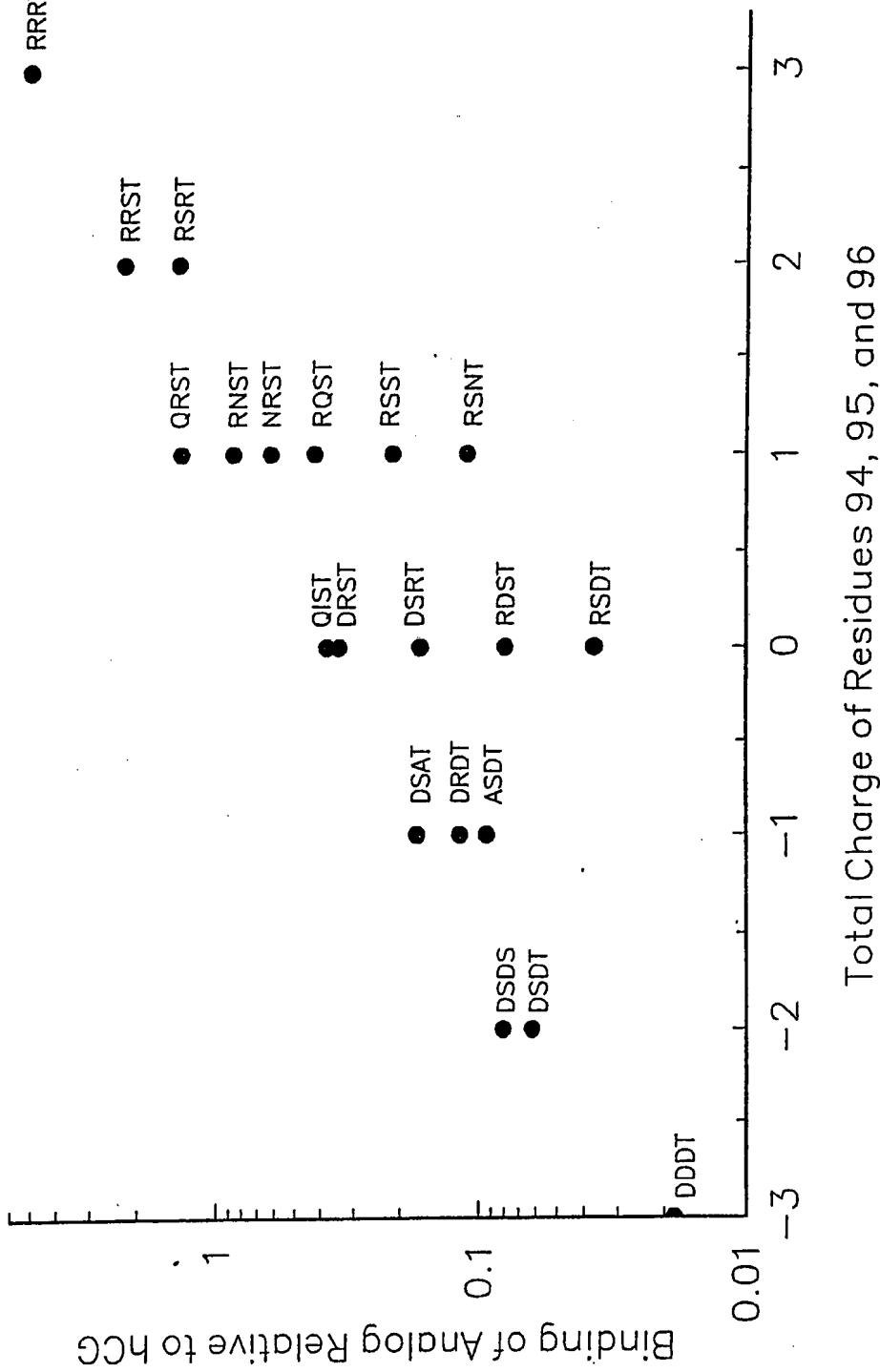


FIGURE 6B**Effect of Charge on LH Receptor Binding**

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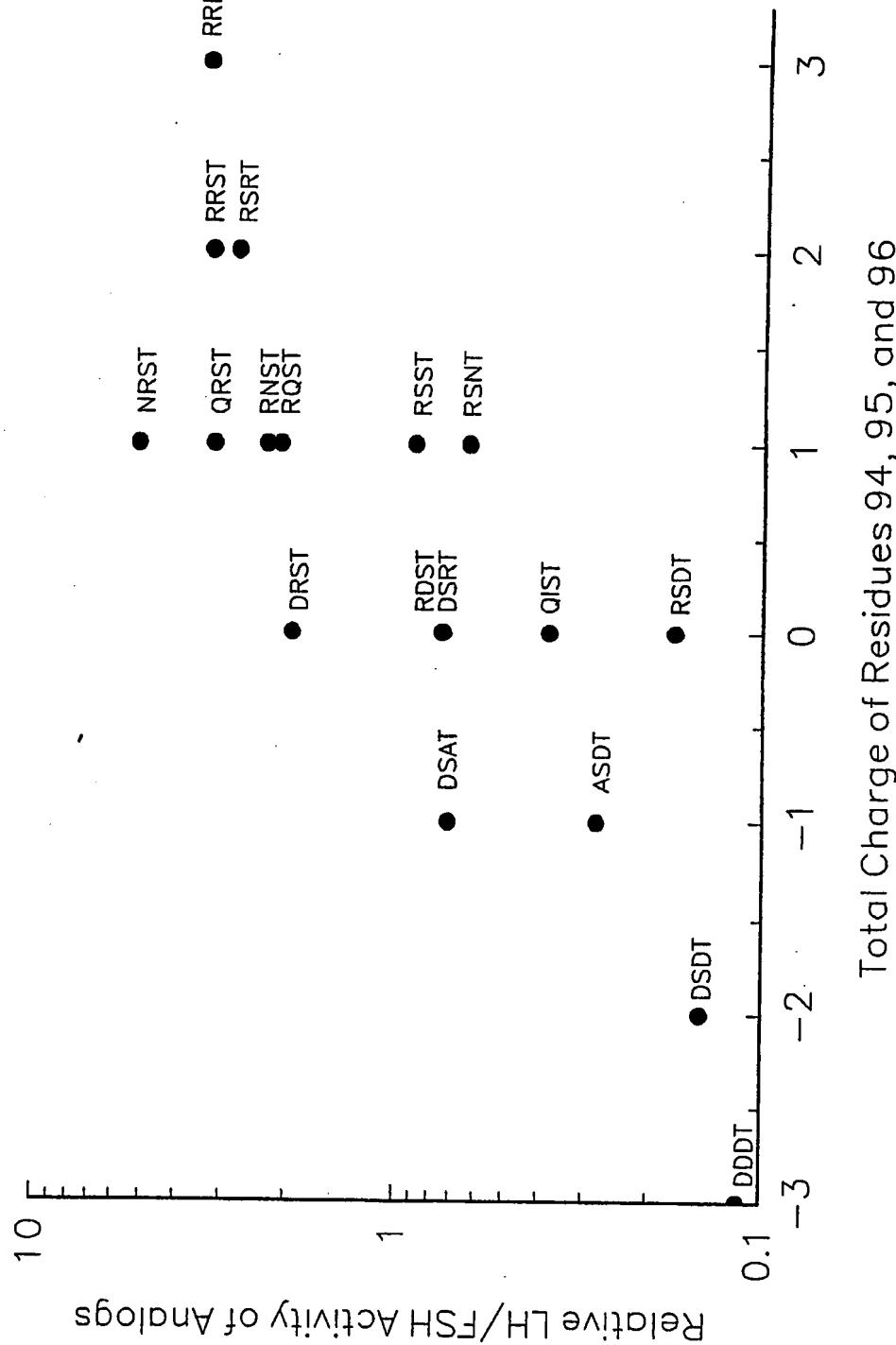
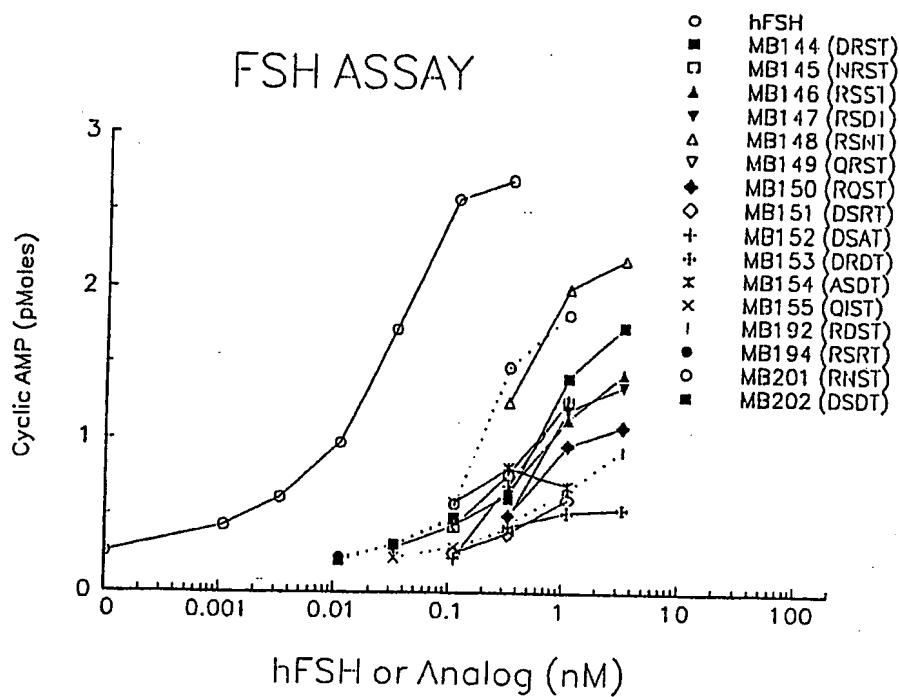
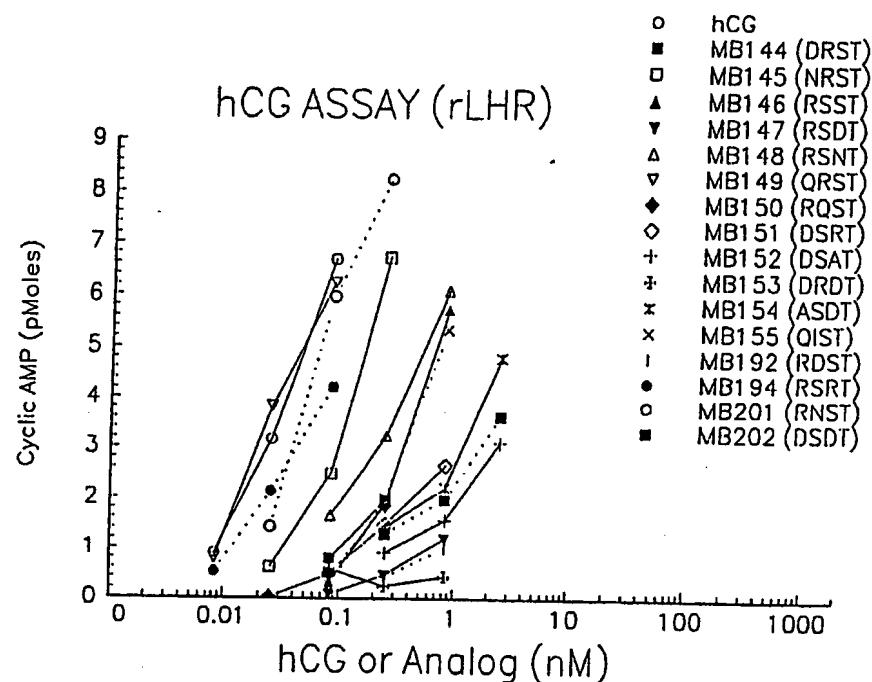
FIGURE 6C**Effect of Charge on Ratio of LH to FSH Activity**

FIGURE 7



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US92/05207

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) :C07K 3/00, 13/00; A61K 37/24, 37/38

US CL :530/350,395,397,398,399,854; 514/8,12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 530/350,395,397,398,399,854; 514/8,12

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS AND SEQUENCE SEARCH

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	ENDOCRINE REVIEW, VOLUME 12, No. 1, Issued 1991, B.D. Murphy et al., "Equine Chorionic Gonadotropin", pages 27-44.	1-7
A	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Volume 88, issued February 1991, R.K. Campbell et al., "Conversion of Human Choriogonadotropin into a follitropin by Protein Engineering" pages 760-764.	1-7

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be part of particular relevance
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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